

Gay Community News

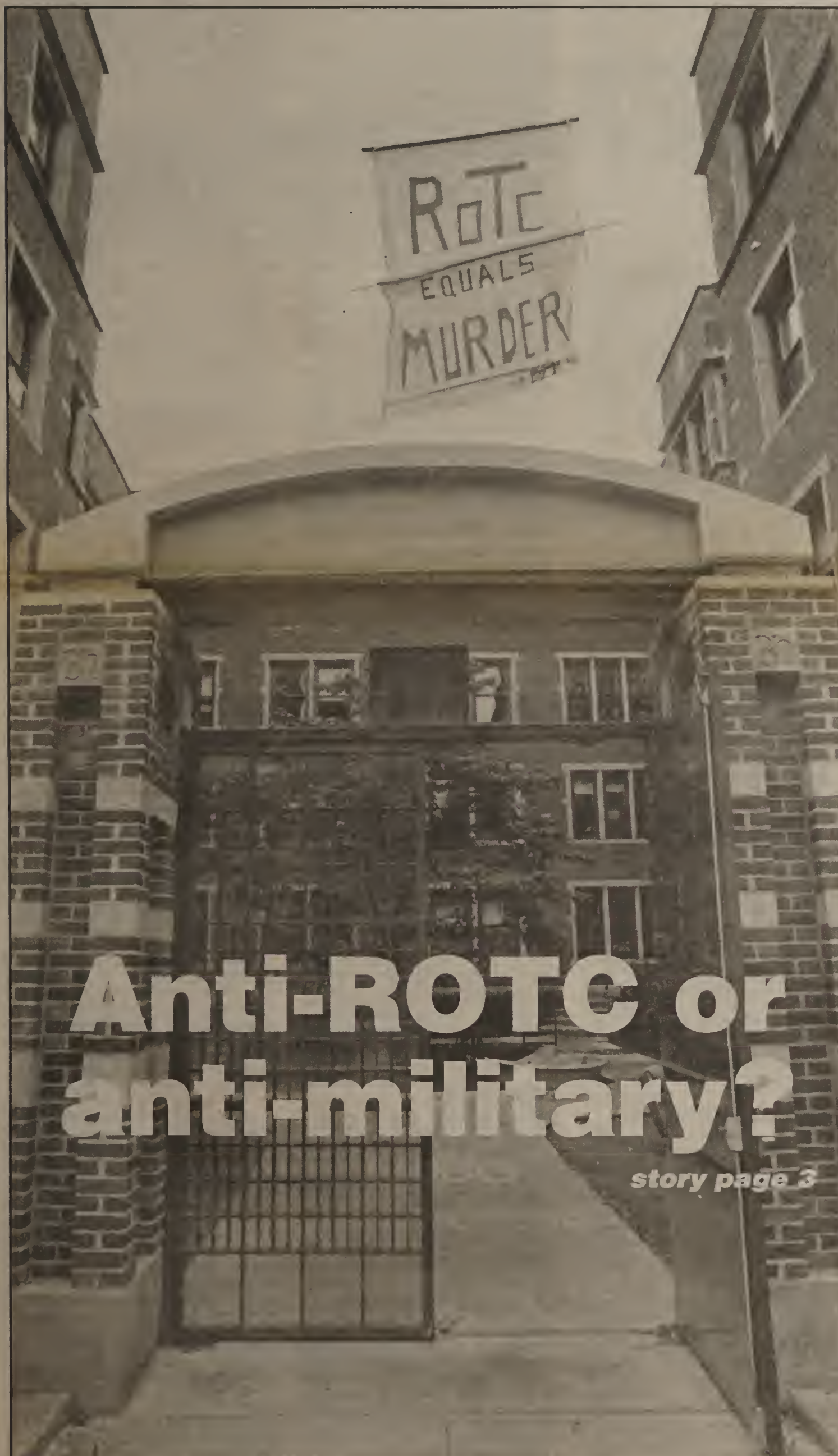
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Anti-ROTC or anti-military?

story page 3

Putting gay rights to a popular vote

Anti-gay forces in Oregon, Colorado and Maine attempt to make gay rights unconstitutional

By Dawn Schmitz

PORTLAND, Ore.—After failing to repeal existing gay and lesbian civil rights laws through several attempts, anti-gay forces are taking the offensive in states from coast to coast. Initiative petitions filed in Oregon and Colorado would make it unconstitutional to enact any gay rights legislation, while an effort in Maine would require voters statewide to approve any gay rights legislation passed by the legislature.

Such campaigns have gay and lesbian activists on the defensive, struggling to maintain their ground instead of moving forward to achieve rights legislation. Further, the Oregon petition would not only make gay and lesbian rights unconstitutional, it would effectively require schools to set "a standard for Oregon's youth that recognizes homosexuality, pedophilia, sadism and masochism as abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse and that these behaviors are to be discouraged and avoided."

"National plan"

"This is a big one," Linda Welch of the Oregon group Right to Privacy told *GCN*. "If they win this, what they're looking at is duplicating their efforts all over the country." An anti-gay group called Oregon Citizens Alliance—which defeated a pro-gay executive order through a statewide ballot initiative in 1988—has to collect only 89,000 signatures by July 3 of next year in order to qualify their initiative for the ballot in November, Welch said.

Activists in Oregon consider the initiative a distinct threat. If the initiative were successful, it would go far beyond precluding any gay/lesbian rights laws from being enacted. It would also forbid state or local government funds from being used for gay and lesbian support services, which would have a severe impact on a nonprofit gay and lesbian counseling center in Portland called Phoenix Rising Foundation that depends on state recognition in order to accept third party billings for its services.

According to Stephanie Holloway, director of Phoenix Rising, the provision mandating that schools cease positive information about homosexuality is a clear step backward, since programs are already in place in some areas to provide gay-positive materials and provide support for gay and lesbian students and parents. In addition, she said, libraries would be forced to remove materials accurately depicting homosexuality.

Portland activists are fighting on the local front as well. A petition was filed locally to repeal the only gay and lesbian rights ordinance in the state, signed into law in October of this year. The local initiative could be on the ballot as early as May.

Oregon and Colorado were chosen by anti-gay groups to build momentum for a nationwide attack, because the two states have lenient election laws that allow for state constitutions to be amended by a simple majority of voters, according to Tea Schook of the Denver-based Equal Protection Only Coalition. Echoing Welch's comments, Schook said, "This is not accidental. This is part of a national plan. We're the test markets for hatred."

Tim Drake of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force told *GCN* the two states are being targeted because of recent gains by gay and lesbian activists. He pointed to the recent passage of the Portland law, as well as a failed attempt by anti-gay forces to repeal a

MARILYN HUMPHRIES

For 2 months this fall this banner was hanging at MIT in Cambridge

Continued on page 6

Quote of the week

"One of the things I find so frustrating is the fact that you turn on the television set and nine-tenths of the national news is about so-called women's issues...but none of it is associated with the women's movement.... It's not conscious; it's beyond conspiracy. It's a definitional problem, a cultural drift, two-thirds of which is underwater.... I keep thinking of the sentence in college textbooks about how women were 'given' the vote, a phrase which ignored 150 years of struggle and hunger strikes. The changes are there, but unless we know how the changes got made, we won't know how to continue."

—Gloria Steinem in a January Vanity Fair interview.

'Buchanan goons' tackle activist

CONCORD, N.H.—Two men associated with the presidential campaign of conservative Republican Patrick Buchanan tackled an AIDS activist and dragged him outside after he began chanting during a Dec. 10 press conference in New Hampshire where Buchanan officially announced his candidacy.

Michael Petrelis of ACT UP/DC told *GCN*, "I went to the Buchanan press conference because he wrote an opinion piece several years ago saying that gays deserve AIDS because they have violated God's laws. I wouldn't be surprised if Buchanan called for a quarantine on people with AIDS, mandatory HIV testing and imprisonment for HIV-infected physicians." Petrelis said that he is in New Hampshire to work on the presidential primary and assist in reviving ACT UP/New Hampshire.

Dressed in a suit and tie and sporting a short haircut, Petrelis interrupted the press conference after about five minutes, chanting "ACT UP, fight back, fight AIDS!" He also held up a sign saying "We are all living with AIDS."

"Before I knew it, I was tackled by two Buchanan goons," said Petrelis. "They did not ask me to leave, but instead literally dragged me out into the concrete parking lot." The right side of Petrelis' head was scraped as he was dragged across the concrete and his lower right arm was bruised.

According to the *Boston Globe*, one of the men who tackled Petrelis is Buchanan's special event coordinator, Chris Tremblay. Another Buchanan official, state campaign director Paul Nagy, followed Petrelis as he was dragged outside the Legislative Office Building and reportedly warned, "Every time you come here, this is what you are going to get. Tell your friends."

"We must keep a fire at all the candidates' feet," said Petrelis, who believes none of the current presidential contenders are good on gay or AIDS issues.

—Jacob Smith Yang

'Frisco police target NAMBLA

SAN FRANCISCO—Members of the North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) have charged that a police department spokesperson falsely accused the group of "distributing literature telling 'where and how' to meet young boys at video stores and arcades" during NAMBLA's 15th Annual General Membership Conference in San Francisco, Nov. 8-11.

According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Police Captain Diarmuid Philpott addressed a news conference concerning sexual abuse of Asian children, saying that "[NAMBLA] and other networks like it tell where and how to approach children, and where in the city these children hang out.... They will lay out a map."

A press release from NAMBLA states that the group is a political and educational organization that seeks understanding for consensual relationships between adults and people younger than 18 years. They maintain that, while they believe "consenting relationships between men and boys should be celebrated,...we do not and never have, assisted in sexual liaisons or broken the law."

NAMBLA spokesperson Bill Andriette told *GCN*, "This points to a tendency to equate organizing around this issue with breaking the law. Police effectively use this tactic to prevent political organizing."

—Jacob Smith Yang

Rights in rural NY

ITHACA, N.Y.—A mostly rural county in New York State passed a comprehensive gay and lesbian rights law Dec. 2, after a similar version was narrowly defeated in July. Thompsons County will join the more than

100 counties and municipalities throughout the nation that afford gay men and lesbians protections from discrimination.

The fair practice law, passed by a vote of nine to six in the County Board of Representatives, will prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, loans, services and education, according to Heather Allore of the Ithaca Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Task Force. The city of Ithaca has had a gay and lesbian rights ordinance since 1984.

"They had the pro-[gay rights law] and the opposition come in opposite doors" during a public hearing, according to Allore. The proposed legislation "has been really divisive in the county," she added. "It's mostly been opposed by fundamentalist Christian groups. Members of the gay community have been having death threats." Allore stated, however, that she believes the anti-gay atmosphere will die down now that the law has been passed.

—Dawn Schmitz

Transsexual student expelled

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—A male-to-female transsexual nursing student has charged that she was "kicked out" of her two-year program at Tennessee State University (TSU) because someone complained about her transgender status.

According to *Query*, a Tennessee lesbian and gay newspaper, Tracy Quirling received a memo from nursing school dean Marion Anema, saying that she could not continue in her program at TSU. "[Nashville's Park View Hospital] where you were scheduled for clinical experiences this fall will not permit you to continue your clinical rotation because of a gender issue," reads the memo from Anema. "It was the perception of some individuals at the institution that your appearance and voice would not be received positively by patients."

"I expected prejudice and discriminatory remarks when I started the program," said Quirling. "I got some from general students on campus, but [until now] I got none from within the nursing program."

Quirling met with Anema after receiving the memo. Anema reportedly told her TSU could do nothing about Park View's decision, which emerged from complaints by at least one doctor. She said that the nursing program had made attempts to place Quirling at other hospitals offering clinical rotation, with no success.

Quirling is in the pre-operative phase of her gender reassignment. She had planned to have her final surgery next summer, in order to work around her school and clinical rotation schedule. The dismissal from the TSU nursing program has left her unsure whether she will be able to afford it.

"I've saved up enough money to pay for the surgery, but it's really expensive," Quirling told *Query*. "If I try to pursue a legal case against TSU because of this, it'll take all that money to pay for lawyers."

—Jacob Smith Yang

Weld backs anti-gay Republican

SALT LAKE CITY—An anti-choice, anti-gay U.S. Senate candidate from Utah will receive the endorsement of Massachusetts Gov. William Weld Dec. 7. Weld, who says he favors gay and lesbian civil rights and women's right to choose abortion, drew the ire of gay/lesbian and feminist activists for his support of fellow Republican Brent Ward. Weld supports Ward's fiscally conservative views, according to a statement his press officer made to the *Boston Globe*.

—Dawn Schmitz

Teen suicides hit

BOSTON—What advocates tout as the only piece of legislation in the country aimed at preventing gay and lesbian teenage suicides was approved by the Massachusetts House Ways and Means Committee and sent to the full House Dec. 10. The bill could be voted on within a week and could become law by the end of the year, according to David LaFontaine, lobbyist for the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights.

Efforts to push the Gay and Lesbian Youth Services bill, which would set up an advisory board within the Massachusetts Office of Human Services to study ways to prevent suicides among gay and lesbian youth, was aided greatly by a Nov. 14 protest and speak-out by Queer Nation and the Coalition, according to LaFontaine (see *GCN*, Vol. 19, No. 19). "The [protest] is what really put the pressure on to get the ball rolling," LaFontaine told *GCN*.

LaFontaine said the bill, which faced a

last-minute attack in committee by Rep. Edward B. Teague (R-Yarmouth), has the support of the ranking House Democrat, Speaker Charles Flaherty (D-Cambridge) as well as of Gov. William Weld, a Republican.

However, the bill is expected to face opposition in the Senate from Sen. William Bulger (D-South Boston), the president of the Senate. LaFontaine emphasized that continued pressure will be needed for the bill to pass the Senate and urged all supporters of the bill to call Bulger's office.

—Dawn Schmitz

Homosexuality no longer equated with spying

WASHINGTON—The Department of Defense promised to withdraw a briefing paper listing "homosexual conduct" among potential behavior patterns of "spies" Nov. 26, following pressure from two U.S. representatives. Rep. Gerry Studds (D-Mass.) and Rep. Don Edwards (D-Calif.) asserted it was "outrageous" to equate homosexuality with criminal or immoral conduct.

The paper listed 15 behavior traits common to individuals involved in espionage against the U.S. government. Among the questionable activities were "criminal, homosexual or immoral conduct." Studds and Edwards succeeded in persuading the Defense Intelligence Agency to withdraw the memo due to its anti-gay bias, and they asked the agency to further instruct its security officers that sexual orientation "is irrelevant to security concerns and that anti-gay discrimination is impermissible."

"Research by the Department of Defense has consistently concluded that gays present no greater risk to the national security than heterosexuals," a joint statement by Studds and Edwards said. "In the entire history of the security clearance system, there has not been a single case of espionage against the United States where homosexuality was a causal factor."

—Dawn Schmitz

Man alleges layoff was anti-gay

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—A man who alleges he was fired from his management job at a Wilmington, Mass., corporation because he is gay and because he hired several African American employees, filed a lawsuit Nov. 22. Gary Krolkowski was fired from AGFA Corporation, a subsidiary of Bayer, USA, after eight years of "stellar performance," according to Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), a Boston-based public interest law firm.

Krolkowski's complaint, filed in Middlesex Superior Court, alleges he was fired in August, 1990, because his superiors discovered his sexual orientation and, in addition, wished to retaliate against him for hiring a large number of African Americans.

Gay men and lesbians are protected from job discrimination under the Massachusetts Gay Rights Law, enacted in January of 1990. Krolkowski seeks monetary compensation, reinstatement to his former position and adoption of new policies and training procedures at AGFA to prevent discrimination and redress complaints.

"This is a clear case of replacing a gay employee with a heterosexual one and disguising it as a layoff," said Mark D. Stern, a cooperating attorney with GLAD. "It is our belief that this case will demonstrate that such action is prohibited under the recently enacted Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Law."

—Dawn Schmitz

FOR THE ACTIVIST IN YOU

• For the truly radical act, send a donation to *Gay Community News*, so we don't fold.

National

• Phone zap the Japanese Consulate for human trials and a compassionate use program for a new drug to treat Kaposi's Sarcoma and breast cancer drug, "SP-PG." Mr. Hanabusa Masamichi at the NYC Consulate office (212) 371-8222; Mr. Atsushi Tokinoya at SF offices (415) 777-3633; Mr. Tateshi Natamura at Chicago offices (312) 280-0400. Also Thomas Boersig at the drug company, Daiichi Pharmaceuticals (201) 944-4333. Organized by Gay Men's Health Crisis of New York.

• Don't forget to register for the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference Feb. 12 - 17 in Oakland. Info: (213) 666-5495. Hotel reservations (800) 932-4550 (identify "NBGLLC").

• Lambda Legal Defense is looking for a

new executive director. Application deadline Jan. 10, to Carol Buell, Board of Directors, c/o Weiss, Buell & Bell 6918 Empire State Building, 350 Fifth Ave., NY NY 10118. Call (212) 967-5710 or (212) 995-8585.

• The Int'l Lesbian and Gay Assoc. seeks the names of gay and lesbian organizations and individuals in the arts for its "Cultural Information" network of performance artists, poets, writers, visual artists, journalists. Contact ILGA c/o the Lesbian & Gay Center, 208 W. 13th St. NY, NY 10011.

Local

• Phone zap Shelly Cohen at the *Boston Herald*, for the Dec. 10 editorial, "Kimberly Bergalis' courage," in which they call Bergalis "truly an innocent victim," and they call "AIDS activists" "not innocent." 1-800-882-2031. Organized by ACT UP/Boston: (617) 49 ACT UP.

• Demand that the state "restore the AFDC Clothing Allowance by the Holidays." Write/call your state Representatives and Senators (617) 722-2000; State House, Boston, MA 02133.

• Call Mass. House Ways & Means chair Sen. Patricia McGovern (617) 722-1481 to ask her to please restore Medicaid for 18-21 year olds (cut by Weld last month) by adding it as an amendment to the current Hospital Finance Bill. McGovern is considering this move, but needs lots of encouragement. Info: Mass. Law Reform Institute or (617) 49 ACT UP.

• Needle exchange to curb HIV transmission was approved in the Senate Dec. 9, but may be put up to a second vote. Call your state Senator (617) 722-2000 to ask for "no reconsideration of S.148." Info: (617) 49 ACT UP.

• Call State Senators to support the Gay and Lesbian Youth Advisory Bill: (617) 722-2000. Info: David LaFontaine (617) 828-3039.

• Holiday clubs need money and participants. To register for the PWA/HIV+ North Shore AIDS Health Project's Christmas Club call (508) 283-0101. To send money, write 19 Pleasant St. Gloucester MA 01930; Morgan Memorial Goodwill needs volunteers to help holiday outreach events for people with disabilities. call (617) 445-1010.

All activist news welcome. Call (617) 426-4469; fax (617) 426-2723.

—Carrie Wofford

Calls for submissions

• Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press is publishing an anthology of writings by Arab-American, Arab-Canadian or Arab/Middle Eastern feminists living in the U.S. or Canada to help create visibility of Arab feminists, provide a forum for issues, and sustain political activists. All forms of writing are acceptable. Topics such as: history, identity, home, activism, creativity, racism, sexism, classism, homophobia. Send SASE to Joanna Kadi, PO Box 7556, Minneapolis, MN 55407.

• *Women Fight Back*, a new publication about sexual harassment in the workplace seeks women's stories. The monthly booklet will be sent to CEO's. Anonymity OK; translations available for submissions in Spanish, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, and Vietnamese. Write: P.O. Box 161775, Cupertino, CA 95016.

• Astraea National Lesbian Writers Fund is accepting entries for its annual awards in fiction and poetry. Prospective applicants must have been published and must send for guidelines and application. Deadline: March 13, 1992 for a grant in 1992. Write: Astraea, 666 Broadway, Suite 520, NY Ny 10012.

• Two lesbian sisters from Ottawa are accepting submissions for *Bloodlines: Writings by Lesbian Sisters*. Individual or co-authored stories, journal entries, essays, photos, dialogue, letters. January 31 deadline. Lynn & Jan Andrews, P.O. Box 4273, Stn. E, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1S 5B3.

• Fighting Words Press is seeking poetry, prose, and first-person accounts by survivors and friends for an anthology about ritual/satanic abuse. Confidentiality guaranteed. Deadline April 1, 1992. 124 Williams St. Northampton, MA 01060.

Fighting Words is also looking for critical writings on therapy and 12-step programs for an anthology. Pieces by survivors of psychiatric abuse esp. welcome. Previously published OK. Deadline April 1, 1992.

• Rising Tide Press, a new Lesbian publisher, is soliciting manuscripts for full-length lesbian novels: romance, mystery, and science fiction/fantasy. Non-fiction, if unusual. Manuscripts evaluated no charge. Rising Tide Press, 5 Kivy Street, Huntington Station, NY 11746, (516) 427-1289. SASE.

'93 March on D.C. questioned

Poorly advertised and poorly attended New England meeting elects reps, is called "ludicrous"; exclusionary criteria debated



MARILYN HUMPHRIES

The 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights

By Dawn Schmitz

BOSTON—The validity of the elections of New England delegates to the 1993 National March on Washington has been called into question following poor attendance at a Dec. 7 regional planning meeting. Gay and lesbian political organizers in the Boston area have expressed anger and dismay that two permanent representatives to the national planning committee were elected during a poorly publicized meeting that drew only eight participants.

"These people are [supposed to be] representing [the gay and lesbian] population of New England. For eight people to elect two of themselves is ridiculous," said longtime Cambridge activist and former National Gay and Lesbian Task Force staffer Sue Hyde.

Hyde said she was personally informed of the meeting by its organizer, Rhode Island resident Derek Livingston, only a week prior to the meeting, by which time she had already made plans. "It's not realistic that busy people are going to be able to carve out a full day [for the meeting] if they don't know about it more than a week ahead of time," she said.

The main purpose of the meeting was to elect representatives to a national meeting to be held Jan. 18-19 in Los Angeles. The delegates to the January meeting will elect a nine member Executive Committee, select the official name of the march and decide which organizations and constituency groups will be included on the National Steering Committee.

The people who attended the meeting included Livingston, another man from Providence, two women from Worcester, three women from Boston and a woman from Hartford. At the meeting, some participants acknowledged the importance of including people from Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire—which make up New England together with Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. This led the group to choose Springfield, Mass., as the February meeting site. Livingston and Hartford activist Lizz Toledo were elected the permanent New England representatives, while Madeleine Gale of Boston and Charles Guttman of Providence offered to serve as temporary representatives.

An exclusionary march?

In addition to the debate about whether delegates should be permanent or provisional, a large portion of the meeting centered on a debate of who should be included in the march and in the march leadership. The participation of gay Republicans, pro-Persian Gulf War advocates and anti-choice forces was contested at length. Included in the discussion was their right to carry signs.

"You can't control who comes to a march and what signs they bring," suggested Madeleine Gale of the Boston All People's Congress, a remark that led to the suggestion by Salina Toledo of the Boston All People's Congress that the march be "controlled from [the planning stage]."

While there seemed to be unanimity that no "Victory in the Gulf" signs should be allowed to be carried at the march, Lizz Toledo, an activist from Hartford, Conn., appeared at the meeting to be promoting the exclusion of such groups from the participating march itself, saying their presence was

oppressive.

Nancy Pleasant, an activist from Boston and a Fenway Community Health Center employee, disagreed with Lizz Toledo at the meeting over who could carry signs at the march. "We will be the oppressors ourselves if we deny the visibility to people," Pleasant said. She suggested that the only people who should be excluded be neo-Nazis or Klansmen, whose mere "presence is oppressive."

Toledo later told *GCN* she wishes only to keep anti-choice, Republican, and pro-war advocates out of leadership positions. "The whole argument being waged at the meeting was not to exclude the people who are marching, but it was that the march should not take a position of militarism and imperialism," Toledo added that it would be appropriate for one of the march's demands to call for an end the military's prohibition and persecution of gay men and lesbians.

Poor outreach

Livingston, who is on the march's Interim Coordinating Committee, said that by Nov. 16 he had sent out a mailing to 40 people and media organizations announcing the meeting and asking its recipients to inform other activists. Livingston said he received an estimated 10 phone calls in reference to the mailing and made an additional 10-15 calls himself. He said he expected about 30 people to attend.

According to Pat Hussain, a Georgia resident who is also on the Interim Coordinating Committee, Livingston did not have much time to plan a successful meeting because he volunteered to be the regional meeting organizer in early November when the individual who was going to do it backed out.

[*GCN* received a fax and a mailing Nov. 29 and ran an announcement of the meeting on page two the week prior to the meeting. However, the announcement did not arrive in time to appear in *GCN's* calendar.]

Livingston said he believes people did not show up at the meeting because "there were a lot of people who didn't feel energized" because the march is almost a year and a half away.

However, several Boston activists who spoke to *GCN* said they would have gone to the meeting or arranged for a member of their organization to attend if they had known about it. Hyde said someone from the Cambridge Lavender Alliance, of which she is a member, would have gone to the meeting if they had been informed of it in a timely fashion.

Jarret Barrios—who is an active member of Queer Nation and the gay Latino group Club Antorcha, a board member of The Greater Boston Gay and Lesbian Political Alliance, and a staff member of openly-gay City Councilor David Scondras—said he had not been informed of the meeting.

"I heard nothing about it," Barrios said. "And I am disappointed that with time slipping by on such an important event that myself and others in the community haven't gotten the word so we can get the word out to others."

Barrios expressed hope that a great deal of outreach take place before the next meeting—scheduled for Feb. 8—in order for the New England delegation to effectively repre-

Continued on page 6

Anti-ROTC or anti-military?

Are there two differing agendas? Gay and lesbian activists who oppose ROTC may find themselves helping but clashing with gay and lesbian peace activists

By Jacob Smith Yang

The push to get military recruiters and ROTC off college campuses, a longtime goal of peace activists, has more recently been taken up by gay and lesbian rights activists, who protest the discriminatory Department of Defense (DoD) policy that bans gay men and lesbians from the armed forces. While this common goal has led to some successful joint efforts, activists from each group have sometimes accused the other of exploiting their cause to achieve its own goals.

News Analysis

What does it mean for lesbians and gay men to fight for the right to participate in the military? Is such an objective contrary to or in keeping with the anti-military movement?

On college campuses and in high schools across the country, the presence of armed forces recruiters and the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) has prompted discussion of the anti-gay military exclusion. Several schools across the country have either barred ROTC and military recruiting or approved plans to phase out ROTC programs unless the military ban on gay men and lesbians is dropped over the next three to five years.

School committee members at the Rindge and Latin High School here voted last summer to disallow military recruiting. Cathy Hoffman of the Cambridge Peace Commission told *GCN* that her organization initiated efforts to get military recruiters out of the public high school based on the military's mistreatment and exploitation of enlisted soldiers, especially women and people of color, and concerns that recruiters were luring students into the armed forces with false promises. Yet as school committee discussions developed, the focus shifted to the military ban on gay men and lesbians and issues of providing equal opportunities for all students.

"It was clear to me that anti-gay discrimination is what finally swayed the School Committee to decide to kick out the recruiters," said Hoffman. "The issue was a useful tool as far as banning recruitment." For that reason, Hoffman and other peace activist view anti-ROTC pressure by gay and lesbian activists as assisting the anti-military movement. But the coalition is not always a planned one.

Many gay and lesbian activists would be against putting an end to the military, an ultimate goal of the peace movement. Miriam Ben-Shalom, national chairperson of the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Veterans of America, emphasizes that the issue is one of freedom to choose, arguing that gay men and lesbians, like other citizens should be able to choose whether or not they wish to serve in the armed forces.

But Hoffman compares the military ban on gay men and lesbians with the military directive that previously segregated African-Americans in the armed forces. This was rescinded by President Harry Truman in 1948. Hoffman argues that it is "shortsighted" for gay men and lesbians to push for acceptance as if the only thing wrong with the military was discrimination. She points to the way African American were later "sent over in disproportionate numbers to be slaughtered in Viet Nam."

Separate struggles?

Some gay and lesbian rights activists take exception to the idea that their cause is being employed to further the anti-military movement. "Members of the progressive, anti-military left are willing to prostitute the anti-discrimination issues to get rid of the military," Jennifer Bills, a co-chair of the gay/lesbian/bisexual caucus of the United States Student Association (USSA), said. Bills conceded that some gay men and lesbians working on the anti-gay discrimination issue may share an overall contempt for the military, but maintained that the issues must be kept separate if they are to be fought effectively.

"On my campus [the University of Oregon] the president is primarily concerned on issues of equal access for all students," said Bills. "Confusing the issue with the general question of whether or not we should have a military would not have got us anywhere."

Sue Hyde, a founder of the Military Freedom Project, a coalition of organization working to end the anti-gay military ban, agreed that Bills' tactical concerns are valid. "I would imagine too much anti-military rhetoric would jeopardize the goal of ending military discrimination," said Hyde. "If what you want to do is win, you should frame the issue around that of equal opportunity."

Yet some anti-military activists criticize efforts to end DoD regulation 1332.14 as too narrow. "In terms of raising issues about the military, it is not very useful," said the Cambridge Peace Commission's Hoffman, who is also a lesbian. "Some of the patriotic language surrounding the rights of gay men and lesbians to serve fail to examine its other shortcomings."

Ben-Shalom does not see her activism in conflict with the peace movement, but believes that activists should set precise goals. "Those peace activists who address issues in terms of generalities get nowhere," she said. "Fighting one issue at a time is the only way to chip away at the monolith of discrimination and mistreatment, and everyone has to choose the angle they wish to work at to chip things away. I'm not unsympathetic to peace activists," Ben-Shalom added, "but my concern and the focus of my work is the people within the military."

Harold Jordan, coordinator of the American Friends Service Committee's national Youth and Military Program, who is also gay, challenges that access to the military would fall short of the ultimate goal of gay and lesbian liberation. "I'm Black, and Truman's 1948 order has not led to liberation. It was an important symbol of a broader institutional oppression, as that gay and lesbian military ban is, and for that reason we have got to get rid of it," Jordan said. "I think it is a sign of maturity of a movement if we can begin to address broader issues of liberation," he added, pointing to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's statement against last year's Gulf War as an example.

Vets more conservative

Jordan believes that peace activists who see the gay and lesbian struggle against the military ban as a struggle "of gay men and lesbians fighting to kill people" are making a fundamental mistake of assuming that the gay and lesbian community is politically homogeneous. "I think they see gay and lesbian veterans spearheading the movement and hear a lot about 'wanting the right to serve our country,'" he added.

Hyde said that such activists have in fact accurately sensed that the struggle for military access has been spearheaded by lesbian and gay veterans, "who have moderate to conservative politics and don't have a broad sense of issues of foreign policy."

"I think peace activists and gay and lesbian activists need to engage one another in dialogue around the broader military issues," said Jordan. "It is great to have people like Miriam Ben-Shalom out there, but you need other people along side to address broader institutional oppression."

Asked about coalition building, Ben-Shalom said that she willing to help groups on issues she agrees on, "but do[es] not have time for nincompoop nit-picking" about generalities. "There is just too little time that could be spent on solid work to waste it on that."

Such a dialogue within the gay/lesbian community may be difficult. At the National Lesbian Conference held in Atlanta last June, lesbian veterans and military personnel took the stage at the final plenary to voice their sense of oppression among other lesbian activists. Some among the audience yelled at them, charging the military with murder and oppression of people of color. A fight ensued, during which one woman was punched by another.

An economic issue

Hyde points out that, while some gay and non-gay anti-militarists might find it distasteful to fight for military access, it is ultimately a matter of extending the advocacy to gay men and lesbians previously left out of the movement. "Upper-middle class activists thumb their noses, but the military is a ticket out for some people, including gay people, who may be stuck in Podunk and have no other way out," said Hyde. "For the poor, the working class, women, African Americans, Latinos and Latinas to be able to say they have served in the military puts them on an

Continued on page 6

Community Voices

GCN JOBS

Business Manager

Available immediately. Responsible for financial management using computerized accounting system, for accounts payable and receivable, staff payroll and generating regular financial reports. Perform general office management tasks. Develop and maintain bookstore sales and bookstore accounts. Negotiate and maintain long-term exchange advertisement contracts. Act as one of two staff liaisons to the Board of Directors. This position will work closely with the development coordinator on long-range financial planning and developing annual budgets.

Qualifications: Strong administrative and financial skills and experience. Experience with non-profit management or bookkeeping preferred. Strong interpersonal and group meeting skills.

National Reporter/ Circulation Co-coordinator

Available in December. Research, investigate and write news stories with a national scope. May include some analytical feature writing as well. Share responsibilities with other staff writer for coordinating weekly mailing of paper and processing subscriptions.

Qualifications: Strong writing skills and ability to write several stories under weekly deadline pressure. Knowledge of national/local lesbian and gay community and issues helpful. Strong organizational and record-keeping skills as well as knowledge of data entry and/or computers also helpful.

GCN Positions All GCN positions require commitments to lesbian/gay liberation, feminism, anti-racism, an awareness of class issues, and collective decision-making.

Salary/Benefits: All positions pay \$230/week and include health/life insurance through Harvard Community Health Plan, dental allowance, sick leave, and four weeks paid vacation. GCN offers staff members responsibility for their own jobs, with flexibility and ample room for innovation.

Please send resume and cover letter to: GCN Job Search Committee, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

Protest beatings

Dear GCN:

The women of the State Correctional Institution at Muncy House have been experiencing several beatings of three Black women, two of them from the gay community.

[Their names are being withheld for privacy]. The worst case was a woman where she was taken from her housing unit by officers and was taken to the Restrictive Housing Unit where there was still moer officers waiting to join in on the melee of beatings.

The officers [names withheld], once they had her in her cell proceeded to rip her clothes off, once her clothes were off, they held her down and went into her vagina and rectum, while an officer sat on her head, and all of this was being videotaped, and they started beating her like a dog, she has numerous bruises, also a large lump on her head.

I am asking the gay community to help us, because now if we bang or scream they will spray us with some pepper and something else that's in an aerosol can, and they wear gas masks, while the rest of us have to breathe the fumes in, and it makes us very sick and they refuse us medical treatment. I beg the gay community to write letters to the following people:

Mrs. Mary Leffridge, Byrd Superintendent, PO Box 180, Muncy, PA 17756

Commissioner, Lehman Commonwealth of PA, PO Box 598, Camp Hill PA 17011

Ms. Kim Amaya, Director of Clinical Services, Prison Society, 3 North Second St. Philadelphia PA, 19106-2208

NAACP, 1242 N. Broad St. Philadelphia, PA 19121-5196.

I sincerely appreciate any and all help you can provide. Thank you.

Saadia Everett #0A8297,
PO Box 180
Muncy, PA 17756

MWMF: denying womanhood

Dear GCN:

I am happy that the producers of the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival have finally responded to the issue of my expulsion from the Festival this summer. Their response is an important piece of the mosaic that depicts the politics and policies of the festival which before this time were hidden. Now that the producers have publicly acknowledged their exclusion policy against transsexuals, I would like to discuss some of the implications of their policy.

The producers state that "...the Michigan Festival is and always has been an event for... womyn-born womyn... We regret that the circumstances at this year's festival may have been a result of a lack of current public information on this policy." The hitherto unpublished policy was a fundamental issue and I believe the festival producers have been negligent for failing to publish their exclusion policy against transsexuals. Transsexual women have a right to know that the Festival is not a safe space for them before they plan their vacation and travel 1000 miles. Also, all women who attend the festival have a right to know the politics they are supporting when they attend the Michigan Festival.

They further state, "We think it is understandable that our priority would not be centered around who our event is 'not' for, and we have deliberately refrained from placing our focus in that direction, though we have always been definite about our policy when asked." The exclusion policy can be succinctly stated as, "No transsexuals allowed." There is no excuse for not having a published policy. Given the fact that the Festival has an explicit policy with regard to participation by men and boys, it is unconscionable for them to have an unpublished policy for transsexuals. Furthermore, it is totally unreasonable to expect that each transsexual woman would have to individually contact the producers to find out if she is welcome at Michigan. Such an elitist and paternalistic attitude is totally unrealistic for women who are otherwise accepted members of their lesbian and feminist communities.

Now that the Festival has a public policy, how will they enforce it? What criteria will they use to screen out transsexual women that will not eliminate some women who were born female and include some transsexual women? If transsexual women are to be excluded then it should be done on a fair, uniform basis using objective criteria, and such criteria should be clearly stated. In the absence of such criteria the enforcement of their policy becomes arbitrary and capricious.

When the producers say, "there was a known transsexual man attending the event" they are deluding themselves. They had no objective proof to substantiate their claim that I was a "known transsexual man." They based their decision on the feelings of discomfort expressed by a few women and my refusal to submit to their intrusive questions about my medical history. The producers further delude themselves when they think that by expelling me they have dealt with the transsexual "problem" at Michigan. The truth of the matter is that many transsexual women attend the Festival and most go undetected.

The bottom line is that there is no clear way to distinguish transsexual women from "women-born" women except by medical history. This demonstrates that exclusionary politics are not based on any real difference between transsexual women and women-born women. The impetus for exclusion is just a gut feeling—like racism and homophobia. There is no rational basis for excluding post-operative transsexual women from the Festival.

Finally, the producers state that the festival working community processed the issue and the result was overwhelming support for the exclusion policy. While it may be true that the majority of workers support the policy, it is not so clear that Festi-goers support the policy. Two of my friends talked with almost 300 Festi-goers during the six day event and their virtually unanimous response was that my expulsion was an outrageous act that should have never happened. Furthermore, they did not know that the Festival even had a policy that excluded transsexual women.

The festival policy mirrors the patriarchal belief that "biology is destiny." For example, the producers say, "We respect everyone's right to define themselves as they wish" and then they refer to me as a transsexual man. This response flies in the face of the reality that I self-identify as female, I am post-oper-

ative, and I've lived as a woman for nine years.

The struggle for recognition is difficult because transsexual challenge people's entrenched popular beliefs about sex and gender. It seems that certain segments of the lesbian and feminist community share with the patriarchy a desire to maintain rigid sex-typed gender roles assigned at birth. This common belief is highlighted in some women's view of transsexual women as "men masquerading as women" and in the Roman Catholic Church's view of sex-reassignment surgery as "unjustifiable mutilation."

No doubt transsexual women will continue to be marginalized and ostracized, and in that process we will serve as mirrors in which the oppressive segments of the feminist and lesbian communities can see how they perpetuate some of the very social evils and stereotypes they fight against in the dominant culture.

The reality is that some transsexuals are lesbians, and we will continue to be a part of the lesbian community, even if we are in the closet because we fear being marginalized and excluded by certain members who harbor parochial views about gender diversity. Nevertheless, many women support us because they recognize in us the energy, commitment and values that they hold dear and which brings them together as a community. Those qualities are intrinsic to our being, our soul and our heart, and they cannot be taken away or denied by those who would deny our womanhood.

Nancy Jean Burkholder
Weare, NH

Condoms in prison

Dear GCN:

I'm a prisoner here at Norfolk State Prison. I am writing in hope of drumming up support to get the Department of Corrections to make condoms available to the prisoners of Massachusetts.

Our only form of protection as it now stands besides abstinence is to ask our partner if he has had the HIV test. And as we all know, many can fall through that window period, so they are indeed infected but show a negative result. We are forced to play Russian Roulette with our lives and our partners everytime we engage in sex. This is cruel and unusual punishment.

I have family who are taxpayers. They all told me if they had a choice between paying .59 cents for a condom versus the thousands of dollars it costs to incarcerate a person with AIDS the answer was of course the cost of the condom.

I cannot do this alone. I need help concerning the Dept. of Public Safety that oversees the Dept. of Corrections to make condoms available to those prisoners who want them. As far as the Dept. of Corrections stance on this issue, I'll use the quote from the now ex-Commissioner Fair who said since homosexuality is against the rules of the Institution then it doesn't happen in his institution. Please give me a fucking break! Homosexuality is alive and not so well in the prisons of Massachusetts.

Please do what you can. We are people before we became prisoners. We count too! I know if I was out on the streets I'd be using a condom every time I had sex. No doubts about it. I don't want to die of AIDS. None of my brothers in prison want to die of AIDS.

Maybe if we could start a letter writing campaign to the Governor, Lt. Governor, Dept. of Public Safety, Dept. of Corrections, maybe something would come of it. I sure hope something positive happens. Before we all end up positive! Thank you for your time and hope to be effective.

Best regards.

A worried inmate,
Ronald Guest
PO Box 43
Norfolk Mass, 02056

Lesbian sexual behavior and AIDS

[GCN received a copy of this letter that was sent to *Off Our Backs* in response to the "Does lesbian sex transmit AIDS? GET REAL!" article printed in November.]
Dear OOB:

I am extremely concerned about the article about lesbians and safe sex in the November 1991 issue. Although it is a good idea to avoid excessive alarm, to dismiss the need for safe sex among lesbians is irresponsible. The reason Beth Elliott can come up with only HIV-infected lesbians is because the Centers for Disease Control, which calculates such figures might consider you a lesbian only if you have no other risk factor.

Gay Community News

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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Computer bulletin board hate

By Andrew Ross Exler

Rambo: "The gays and lesbians don't give a rats ass about this state or any other state, all they care about is themselves..."

Greybear: "There is a terrible problem with this 'gay' rights thing...many people are scared to death of being around these people and the disease they have brought into the world. They, instead, demand that the non-infected work with them, associate with them, 'love' them for being alive, and eat off the same plate. Until they clean up that act, the non-gay simply cannot be forced to come into their environment..."

Rambo: "...Now I know why there are people that bash gays...same rights as minority races in a pigs eye."

Tank: "There are already existing laws that apply to homosexuals rights and protection. I don't even understand what more yags [sic] want? If they just keep their damn mouths shut, they could keep their jobs more secure. So many queens want to flame and float and act like Madame Butterfly in the work place."

Rambo: "...The only place that might be in your favor is San Francisco and in most people's eyes a city of queers. By the way, have you ever wondered just why gays are called QUEER?"

Greybear: "As for 'catching' AIDS, who knows how a non-homosexual catches it? We do know that the homosexuals have offered it to us in the form of blood donations, dirty needles...if the homosexual lifestyle continues to catch on, birth rates should drop, AIDS deaths should rise, and world population may come under control..."

The comments stated above are some of the tamer ones of nearly 150 messages posted on two Palm Springs, California computer bulletin boards (BBS), Nite City and The Sanctum, in reaction to my recent posting of a message regarding Gov. Pete Wilson's veto of AB 101. The bill, if passed, would have added the words "sexual orientation" to the current state anti-discrimination employment

law.

What started as a heated debate quickly turned into nasty anti-gay/AIDS slurs and personal attacks. Ironically, one self-described homosexual BBS member, Tank, has defended anti-gay and anti-AIDS comments.

For those unfamiliar with the new age of communications, a computer bulletin board is accessed from one's computer and modem through a telephone line. Most bulletin boards allow people to leave private messages, participate in public forums, play on-line games, and download free software. The anti-gay/AIDS messages I was challenging were posted in public forums, no via private mail.

After I threatened to expose and possibly sue the System Operator (SYSOP) and/or persons posting the hate messages on The Sanctum, I was immediately barred from that BBS. I was told, in part, by the SYSOP: "...At my whim, and my whim alone I can pull the plug on anyone I desire for any cause, restrict anyone's access, or allot whatever time limit restricts I choose...I have absolutely no intention of changing anything on this BBS. It is my domain and anyone that attempts to supersede my authority will be deleted."

After being on a local gay-oriented BBS, Oracomm, for more than one year, I decided it was time to branch out and see what was happening on other local boards. I was saddened to see the hate messages and perhaps was rather naïve in thinking I could put a stop to the hatred.

Just last month, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith was successful in their negotiations with a national computer communications service, Prodigy, after anti-semitic messages were allegedly posted. Prodigy, a joint venture of Sears Roebuck and IBM, agreed to monitor messages containing slurs. I have filed a complaint with the ADL in Los Angeles regarding the Palm Springs boards and they are looking into the matter.

What is equally disturbing about the hate

messages is that they are posted by hate-mongers who use aliases and don't reveal their true identity! The SYSOPS of both bulletin boards in question are also anonymous, which makes it nearly impossible to negotiate with these people. Many of the hate messages on both boards come from the same individuals, using the same aliases on both boards. One of the users, "Greybear," says he spend two years working with doctors in creating an AIDS database at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage. This is a man who is convinced that we do not know how "heterosexuals" acquire AIDS and blames gay people for spreading diseases!

Civil rights attorneys have told me that hate speech, generally, is protected by the First Amendment. Funny thing that the same First Amendment allows a SYSOP to pull the plug from one's computer if they don't agree with what that individual has to say! Anyway, it appears that there is little, if anything, that one can legally do to stop computer hate violence. We can and should, however, alert others when we learn that such hate violence is taking place and publicize the telephone numbers of the bulletin boards or communication services so we can at least put in our two cents worth!

If you have a computer and modem, you may reach Nite City at (619) 778-6783 and The Sanctum at (619) 321-7039. Both bulletin boards operate 24-hours a day. Please be aware that you may have a problem getting on The Sanctum because they have now become an "invitation only" board. If you discover a BBS or communication service in your area which permits anti-gay, anti-AIDS, anti-semitic, sexist or racist slurs, please contact me, your local Anti-Defamation League or one of the national gay and lesbian rights groups. Together, we can educate others and stress that high-tech hate violence should not and will not go unchallenged.

Andrew Exler, a paralegal, free-lance writer, and longtime activist, welcomes your comments at 100 S Sunrise Wy Ste 303, Palm Springs, CA 92262.

lates such figures might consider you a lesbian only if you have no other risk factor. That is, if you have had sex with one man since 1977 you get counted as heterosexual. There is not even a lesbian or woman-to-woman category, so no women even get asked if they have had sex with other women; they would learn this information incidentally.

The lesbian community is not a monolithic one: lesbians have children, have sex with men, shoot drugs, and get raped—all risks for HIV. Also, it is outrageously presumptuous to assume that all lesbians are having the kind of sex that doesn't put one at risk. Lesbians use sex toys, we practice S/M, and we even go down on women who have their periods or who have a yeast infection. It is true that being a lesbian itself is not a risk. It's what we do that puts us at risk.

Finally, it is always interesting to ask the same woman who believes she doesn't need to practice safer sex with her lover, if she would continue to avoid safe sex knowing her lover was HIV positive. Barriers (like latex or practice wrap) might suddenly seem like a safe and necessary measure. Assuming all lesbians are HIV negative is insulting and naive.

Safe sex is not just about latex barriers. Not going down on a woman until you know more about her history is safe sex. A good and thorough risk assessment could potentially go a long way to determine what, if any, precautions you and your lover wish to take. Though it's still hard to know what good and thorough would be. An article like Elliott's discourages just the sort of research that might save our lives.

We need to encourage each other to make our own decisions based on the information available and avoid the moralizing that makes it so difficult to discuss or negotiate sex to begin with. Beth Elliot's diatribe was dangerous and thoughtless, and I hope *Off Our Backs* will soon publish another article based on the information in this letter.

Monica Pearl
New York, NY

Queer proposals?

Dear GCN:

On Wed., Dec 4, Queer Nation/San Francisco held its final meeting, or at least its last as an organization for the foreseeable future. The acrimonious meeting at the Women's Building on 18th St. was attended by approximately 25 people.

At the prior QN meeting a week earlier, on November 27, I had blocked consensus on a proposal. According to Queer Nation consensus procedure, my blockage prevented adoption of the proposal. The proposal which I blocked read as follows:

1. Statements that are racist, sexist, bi-phobic, anti-semitic, homophobic are not welcome at Queer Nation general body meetings.

2. Physical or verbal attacks that are personal in nature are not welcome during Queer Nation general body meetings.

3. Since we have the room for general body meetings for a finite amount of time, it is assumed that everyone will respect that other people may want to speak and respect the role that the timekeeper plays in facilitating both timely ending of the meeting as well as the participation of all attendees.

4. All employees of police and other security agents are required to identify themselves either voluntarily or when asked to do so by the general body. Failure to do this may result in the violator being asked to leave or a discontinuation of the meeting.

5. The facilitators, the vibeswatchers, after consulting the offending party(ies) may suggest remedies to the offended parties for statements that are racist, sexist, bi-phobic, anti-semitic, and homophobic, especially those of repeat offenders. Such remedies may include: suggesting education, asking the offender to leave, revocation of "blocking" rights during decision making, or not calling on that person for the remainder of the meeting.

I opposed the proposal because it would not have reinvigorated Queer Nation, nor would it have done anything to eliminate bigotry from Queer Nation or from the world.

In place of dialogue, instead of the ongoing process of defining ourselves, it offered a catechism, a set of incantations and pecking orders and rule of conformity. In place of understanding, in place of Queer Nation's vibrant spontaneity, its flouting of respectability, here was an attempt to sanitize Queer Nation from evil, and to codify Official Queer Standards of Respectability.

Queer Nation from evil, and to codify Official Queer Standards of Respectability.

Who would define and interpret these terms? The introducers—who had a history of branding as racist or sexist any interpretation or definition of "racism" or "sexism" that diverged from theirs (and which included failure to give special consideration to those they deemed to be oppressed groups)?, who watched even for facial expressions and tones of voice (especially "loud and aggressive"—ergo, "masculine" ones)—that they might consider offensive?

The proposal would have made it possible to accuse a person—even one who is merely irritating (isn't *queerness* irritating to *some* people?)—of being offensive, without offering recourse or defense to the accused.

It would have made Thought Police of the vibeswatchers and facilitators, and offered no checks upon their judgements or upon the predations of a malicious, misguided, or misunderstanding accuser. It would have created a set of criteria so ambiguous and subjective that they could be—and already have been—used to smear gadflies as bigots, or those with divergent ideas or personal styles as offensive.

The aspect of the proposal was not ambiguous. It would have predisposed Queer Nation toward blackballing nonconformists.

The proposal was ripe for potential abuse, and the clique introducing it had shown itself willing, and even anxious, to commit precisely such abuses. Nonetheless I was not pleased merely to have blocked it, and spent much effort the following week developing a counter-proposal that I felt might address these issues in ways that might achieve consensus and allow Queer Nation to move forward in combating our true enemies.

My counter-proposal, which I distributed before and during the ill-fated Dec. 4 meeting, was as follows:

Guidelines for the conduct of Queer Nation meetings

Free expression and diversity are central to our identity as queers. There is no such thing as officially sanctioned queer personality or viewpoint.

All queers have the right to feel safe among other queers at Queer Nation meetings and actions, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, age, appearance, HIV or other health status, or political or spiritual belief.

Expressions of personal or group hatred—especially (but not only) hatred based on a person's sexuality, gender, race or ethnicity—are inimical to our nature and purposes as a community. So, too, are acts or

gender, race or ethnicity—are inimical to our nature and purposes as a community. So, too, are acts or threatened acts of physical harm against our own people. They have no place at our meetings.

Law enforcement officers shall not attend nor participate in Queer Nation meeting, unless explicitly invited for a specific purpose. The requirements of their positions inherently create a conflict of interest that would encumber that participation.

The right to feel safe includes the right—and sometimes even the obligation—to struggle outspokenly for one's own interest and point of view among all those in the community, including views and personal styles that one believes are in conflict with one's own.

Our obligation is to act with good faith and integrity, hoping that the result will be greater understanding and a deeper, more inclusive, and more genuine sense of community.

I've worked with lesbians and other feminists, both female and male, and people of many colors and flavors over many years—laughed and struggled and sweated, cared for and been cared for by them. We've managed to interact as friends and colleagues, without posturing, sharing a sense of humor. How different from QN!

The issue of codes of behavior or formulas of representation is not really about "women and people of color." It's about anal retentives vs. oral compulsives. Heaven help us if and when the anal retentives take over, using "women and people of color" as their over.

Wars are generally fought in the name of peace, of imposing a particular kind of peace. Often the honor of women is held to be at stake.

If any of us wants to be called overprivileged, we can read Pat Buchanan. For that, we don't need Queer Nation.

Are we in the business of destroying orthodoxies or of creating them?

Meanwhile, attendance of QN meetings has been dwindling, and the creative fire drained from the organization by the dead hand of wannabe bureaucrats bend on thought control. The action has long since been elsewhere.

We are divided by what we claim to be; we are joined by our humanity.

We all have our work cut out for us.

It's time to move on.

Mitchell Halberstadt

San Francisco, Calif.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

If you'd like to submit an article, essay, interview, artwork, photo, etc.,

for our annual Black History Month Supplement (February is right around the corner!), or if you'd like to help with this spectacular issue in any way at all, drop a line to Chris, GCN Features, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, Mass. 02116, or call (617)426-4469.

GCN EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

The "Community Voices" and "Speaking Out" sections in GCN represent part of our efforts to provide a true forum for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us, and to respond to ideas expressed within our pages. We welcome all contributions except personal attacks.

Letters and "Speaking Out" contributions that have appeared in other publications previously are printed only as space allows. GCN reserves the right to edit letters and "Speaking Out" contributions for length and clarity, in consultation with the author. Please include your name, address, and daytime phone number with your letter or article so that we can contact you to verify.

Rights

Continued from page 1

year-old Denver gay rights ordinance in May of this year by a vote of 55 to 45 percent. In addition, he said, a gay rights bill in the Oregon state legislature passed in one house this spring and received the support of Gov. Barbara Roberts.

"Treading water in Colorado"

The Colorado Springs-based anti-gay group Colorado for Family Values has to gather even fewer signatures than the Oregon group—only 50,000 are needed by May in order for their initiative to appear on November's ballot, according to Schook. If the initiative is successful, gay and lesbian rights legislation already enacted in Denver, Boulder and Aspen would be repealed. In addition, an executive order signed by Gov. Roy Romer a year ago protecting lesbians and gay men from discrimination in state employment would be struck down.

"What we're doing right now is fighting to tread water," Schook said. "We're fighting to keep the status quo. I really resent that we have to do that instead of moving forward."

Schook said the statewide repeal will be more difficult to fight than the local one, because the population of Colorado is so spread out that it's difficult to organize. "We'll probably win in Denver, we'll probably win in Boulder, but the rest is not a given," she said.

However, Schook said gay and lesbian activists are joined by a large coalition in their attempt to fight the initiative. One of the controversial aspects of the initiative is that it attacks the right of cities to home rule in the area of gay rights, Schook stated, adding that many Coloradans—regardless of their views toward gay rights—resent the possibility that the state could override local ordinances.

"Popularity contest" in Maine

Anti-gay forces in Maine are seeking to put a measure on the ballot that, if it passes, would require all gay/lesbian rights legislation to be put before the voters of the state. When the petition was rejected by Secretary of State William Diamond on constitutional grounds this fall, the petition filer, Jasper Wyman of the Christian Civic League, sued Diamond.

Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, a Boston-based public interest law firm, and the Maine Civil Liberties Union joined in the suit on Diamond's side Nov. 7. The proposed initiative "threatens [legislators] with voter hysteria and disapproval," said Mary Bonauto, a GLAD attorney. What's worse, she said, it wrongly puts civil rights up for a popular vote. A similar initiative attempt this fall in Massachusetts—which already has a gay rights law—was struck down on similar constitutional grounds.

"We believe the Maine Constitution forbids this kind of sneak attack on unpopular groups," Bonauto stated. "While we have faith in the fairness of the people of Maine, equal treatment before the law should not be based on a popularity contest."

An estimated 17 other individuals and organizations, including some Jewish groups and the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People have also joined forces with GLAD and the ACLU in the suit, which Bonauto stated will probably make it to the Maine Supreme Court. "They rightly see this as a threat to their civil rights," Bonauto stated, adding that the initiative, if successful, could potentially put all civil rights up for approval.

Gay men and lesbians probably make up the largest minority in Maine, Bonauto told *GCN*, adding that African Americans make up less than three percent of Maine's population. If gay men and lesbians lose their rights, she asked, "Who will be next?"

According to activists enmeshed in these battles, gay and lesbian activists around the nation need to plan ahead for sneak attacks on pro-gay legislation. "Don't think, 'It won't happen here,'" Schook said. "They want all of us dead. Period. The moral [of the story] is to start organizing now."

—filed from Boston/jl

'93 march

Continued from page 3

sent the diversity of the region. "It's going to take some work," he added. "Clearly the word is not out in Boston, and that has to happen soon."

Gary Dotterman, who works in Scodras' office and was involved in planning the 1987 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, said that although he personally does not plan to be involved in planning for the 1993 march, he is disappointed he was not informed of the meeting. "I would have liked to have known.... I would be happy to spend time with people to help

share our experience. I hope people do much more outreach" than was done for the 1987 march, he said.

Dotterman added that he was surprised he wasn't informed of the Dec. 7 meeting. "All the lists.... everything from the 1987 march was documented and carefully preserved," he said. In 1987, New England sent the largest number of people to the march, Dotterman said, putting the figure at well over 80,000.

Although some at the meeting expressed concern that no permanent delegates be elected from such a small group of people, the result of the meeting was that two permanent and two provisional delegates were chosen. This decision was made when one of the women from Worcester suggested solving the dilemma by asking who in the group was interested in going to the Los Angeles meeting. Toledo and Livingston were the only two who expressed interest in being permanent representatives. Madeleine Gale of Boston's All People's Congress and Charles Guttman of Providence, R.I., volunteered to go provisionally and put their seats up for election at the February meeting. No one present objected, so the four were appointed as they wished.

Gender and racial parity rules, set up in an August national planning meeting—which call for half of all delegates to be people of color and half to be women—were adhered to. Gale and Guttman are white, Livingston is African American and Toledo is Latina.

Reconsider the vote?

Pleasant later told *GCN* that she felt all four seats should be up for re-election at the February meeting. "I think it's fair that we re-elect [all four] representatives," she said, adding, "Maybe [Livingston and Toledo] will get re-elected."

Some activists made a stronger statement about the appropriateness of the election. Hyde said that regardless of the reason for the small meeting, new elections should be held. "It does not matter what people intended," she said. "This is not representation. This is ludicrous."

Livingston said that if those who attend the February meeting demand a new election, he would go along with it "if people feel strongly about it." He added, however, the establishment of a new election "is not my decision to make."

Toledo disagreed. "No, I don't think it would be fair because some people came a long way [to attend the meeting] and really wanted to be involved," she said. Toledo added that if the issue became divisive at the February meeting, she would consent to putting her seat up for election again. When asked whether a meeting announced on such short notice gave all interested parties the opportunity to attend, Toledo countered, "Well, there were people there who only knew a week before." Toledo said other regions elected representatives in a similar fashion, pointing to the recent meeting held in San Francisco.

However, according to Leslie Ewing, who helped organize the Northern California delegation in a meeting in San Francisco Dec. 7, no permanent representatives were elected despite a strong showing of 90 people. She said those at the meeting elected four provisional delegates to the January meeting, feeling that even though gender and racial parity was reached, further outreach should take place before the next regional meeting in March.

Michelle Crone, who sits on the Interim Coordinating Committee and who organized the Dec. 7 meeting for New York State in Albany, said seats can be shared and rotated to make the process more democratic. "The name of the game isn't to have a seat as some sort of a prize, but to have people seated who will do work and do outreach to the entire community," she said.

"Those people [elected in the New England regional meeting] have to be open to sharing or revolving those seats," Crone continued. "They have to be out there in the community making sure that the process is inclusive." □

ROTC

Continued from page 3

equal footing with white guys," she added.

"The gay and lesbian movement has been white and middle class, and it is very meaningful for working class gay and lesbians and gay people of color that our movement has finally smelled the coffee on this issue and it is taking up in a major way," said Hyde, pointing out that the military is the largest employer of people of color in the U.S. "Activism around this issue may lionize the pretty white ROTC boys, but ultimately a change in the policy will impact working class people and people of color. In terms of building a movement, this issue is very important." □

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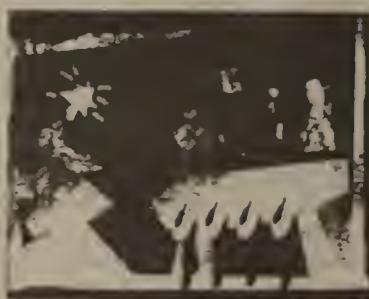
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FORTUNE

GAY IN CORPORATE AMERICA

What it's like, and how business attitudes are changing

Like more and more business people, Jack Sansolo, president of the Hill Holliday ad agency, is out of the closet.

Telling Fortune

A Media Watch report

By Kathryn E. Diaz

In case you missed it, the cover story of the Dec. 16, 1991 *Fortune* magazine was called, "Gay in Corporate America: What it's like and how business attitudes are changing." What it's like has mostly been in the closet, thus far.

The article details how more and more gay men and lesbians are coming out, if not to everyone at work, at least to each other through gay employee organizations on the job and professional associations outside of work. It also provides some moving accounts of how isolated and afraid gay people in the business world are. Unfortunately, the article's hopeful message about combatting one form of bigotry, homophobia, collapses under its troubling subtextual message about just who gets ahead in corporate America.

But *Fortune* does demonstrate that gay people have reason to be afraid at work. There is the nightmare come true:

When Jeffrey Collins, second in command of a Shell Oil subsidiary, accidentally left a document in a copying machine that discussed rules for safe sex at a party he was attending, Shell not only fired him but even made up phony records to show that he was dismissed for reasons other than his sex life. A California judge in June ordered the company to pay Collins \$5.3 million in damages. (Shell is appealing the verdict.)

There are the fears of hitting a "glass ceiling" beyond which known or suspected gay men and lesbians cannot rise. According to *Fortune*:

In a 1987 survey by the *Wall Street Journal*, 66% of major-company CEO's said they would be reluctant to put a homosexual on management committees; while attitudes may have changed since, there's no evidence of a revolution. Says [a] lesbian manager at American Express: "There are very senior people who've been spotted at gay places. They're in the closet. The message is clearly 'Being out is not the road to success.'"

Nevertheless, gay employee groups are thriving at companies like Levi Strauss, AT&T, Xerox and Lotus. Some of the groups have launched education efforts to combat homophobia in the workplace. Gay professional organizations are burgeoning. Explains *Fortune*, "Mostly the groups exist to give gay and lesbian professionals a chance to meet one another and swap business cards." Says a partner in a Chicago advertising agency: "I've brought in business through this network. And I've grown. I've been exposed to normal people — people with ambition, not people in bars."

This is where the article ceases to be an informative human interest type of story and starts mindlessly replicating the great American myth of meritocracy. The white gay people in the article know they are discriminated against, but they can't step outside themselves long enough to acknowledge that so are many people — both inside and outside the community — for a variety of reasons. With most people embodying so many overlapping identities of race and ethnicity, sex and gender, degrees of able-bodiedness, to name a few, issues of representation are difficult even to discuss — let alone resolve—but we must. David Duke's running for president and the dismantling of public and private affirmative action programs nationwide are just two reasons why.

"We don't need affirmative action — we're already here. We need the freedom to be visible," states John Wofford, a lawyer who works for Endispute, a mediation outfit in Cambridge, Mass. The editors of *Fortune* liked this quote so much, they selected it as a bullet; apparently the irony was lost on them that this article looking at "gays in the workplace" actually advocates something anathema to *Fortune*'s ideology: affirmative action. But when is affirmative action not criticized? When it's an informal process called networking.

Although the Wofford quote may have been a well-intended attempt to demonstrate that gay people can make it, it tends to reflect an "I got mine, too bad about you" sentiment reminiscent of Clarence Thomas. The comment also misses the mark because a substantial percentage of gay people are "of color" (for want of a better term) and because half of all gay people are women. Both groups have been traditionally under-represented in corporate suits, and, up until now, have benefited greatly from affirmative action programs. Let us not forget why affirmative action is a good thing.

Gertrude Ezorsky points out in her brilliant new book, *Racism & Justice: The Case for Affirmative Action* (Cornell University Press, 1991, 134pp., \$6.95, paper) that affirmative action programs were designed to combat not just overt racism, but institutional racism, meaning practices such as "networking" that appear racially neutral, but that nevertheless adversely affect Black people as a group. Over 80 percent of executives find their jobs through networking and about 86 percent of available jobs do not appear in the classified ads. Ezorsky's work pulls together facts such as these to provide a description of the moral, social, economic and political foundations and justifications of affirmative action. She reminds those who scratch their heads and wonder, "Why can't Blacks make it? White

Continued on page 11

From bad to good

When conservatives forced the cancellation of the 1991 International Lesbian and Gay Association conference in Guadalajara, they unwittingly initiated the formation of a new gay and lesbian organization, the Latin American Network

By Manuel Zozaya
(Translated by Theresa A. Toblin)

This is already known: conservative Jalisco society needed to protect its well-closeted fancy dress cowboys (that appear after their third tequila) from the gay movement and so that some young men would not decide to jump from the confinement of their armor to the glories of center stage. It is because of this the 12th annual International Lesbian and Gay Association Conference (the most transcendental event of many years for the lesbian and gay movement in Mexico) had to move to Acapulco for its July 1-7 celebration, originally planned for Guadalajara.

The Guadalajara conference was ready to go, thanks to the activism of the militants of the Gay Pride Liberation Group (GOHL), who were awaiting the arrival of more than 400 attendees for the week. Nevertheless, the homophobia of the mayor of Guadalajara and the governor of Jalisco began to block the meeting by giving inflammatory statements to the media. Overnight there appeared signs on the walls against the conference, and there was even a call for a march by some 50 fanatics chorusing a slogan against homosexuals and pro-Guadalajara.

Immediately counter signs made by sympathizers appeared. The lesbian *compañeras* of the group Patlatonalli, together with GOHL, bore the brunt of the meeting with officials and recorded the happening on video. The video was confiscated by the police while the groups were doing their work.

The moment arrived when the authorities refused to guarantee the safety of the people at the conference, which became a real threat. When the mayor of Guadalajara uttered the phrase, "Unfortunately, the constitution guarantees the freedom to assemble," he enlarged the anthology of asinine sayings most dear to the hearts of our governors. Nevertheless, the event was no joke. A rapid decision had to be made so as not to endanger the lives and safety of the conference.

So the conference was cancelled.

Yet, we know that the news was protested worldwide: at some Mexican consulates and during Gay Pride Week in Mexico City, in the Chopo Museum and in the various media outlets. Some of the organizers went to the National Commission for Human Rights, whose director Jorge Carpizo put them in touch with Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu, the governor of the state of Guerrero. He immediately arranged to make available all necessary facilities for the conference to take place in Acapulco.

The government of Guerrero offered conference rooms in the Hotel Copacabana and in the same way linked the *compañeros* and *compañeras* of GOHL and Patlatonalli with the management of the Hotel Torres Gemelas of Condesa Beach, which also offered to help the conference. There was also assistance from the International Solidarity Movement and the U.S. gay journal *The Advocate*, which provided an important sum of money that permitted the transfer of the conference from Guadalajara to Acapulco.

The news that the conference would be held in Acapulco was announced by Pedro Preciado of GOHL and by the men and women organizers of Gay Pride Week of Chopo. They held a political rally in defiance of the Guadalajara authorities, June 27, in front of the House of Representatives of the State of Jalisco.

Saturday, the 29th, the traditional Gay Pride march took place. This year the presence and the extravagance of some of the crazy foreigners contributed to make a more brilliant event than has been seen in many a year. It included a nude display by both a gay man and a lesbian before a crowd applauding euphorically. (This is not the first time that a nude protest was made in Mexico. In 1985, two young gay men stripped during a march against the police and the "Good Government Rules and Regulations" that were in force in the capital. These rules and regulations continue to be the excuse for the harassment of lesbians and gay men by police patrols, justice officials and pseudo-agents.) Pride day ended with an extremely crowded fiesta by the Tlapan and Xola Roads.

Before the 12th Annual ILGA Conference in Solidarity (as it came to be called after the Guadalajara cancellation), the organizing work began with a meeting of the Latin American Groups. The organizing continued all week parallel to the ILGA conference.

On Sunday night, the Hotel Torres Gemelas gave a welcome party. After dinner there was a dance, women with women and men with men.

Monday, the Latin American Groups meeting continued, and some participants proposed that the conference should be an exclusively Latino event, omitting the planned-in-advance schedule. Finally it was decided that the Latin American Groups would do their work in addition to the planned event, so as not to block the development of the conference.

As a result of the Latino meeting, a Latin American Network was created. An organizing committee was formed, consisting of representatives from Mexico (Alma Aldano, a feminist sexologist from the Federal District, and Alejandro Garcia, from Grupo y Que de Tijuana) as well as representatives from the Caribbean, Central and South America and Latinos from New York and the West Coast of the United States.

There was a space delegated for a representative of Brazil, a country that has a strong AIDS activist movement and much cultural diversity. The spot was reserved so that a Brazilian group would be able to promote the Network and pass the information to the giant of the Southern Continent.

Tuesday was the official opening of the 12th ILGA conference. Unfortunately, the obstacles at the last hour made the 400 delegates waiting to attend in Guadalajara shrink to only about 150. Nevertheless, the conference was significant for being the first in which there was counted such an abundance of Latin American lesbians and gay men. This was undoubtedly one of its most outstanding aspects.

The culture clash between the European delegates (the majority of them from Northern Europe; only three from the Mediterranean: Greece, France and Spain) and North American Latinos (plus the attendance of a delegate from Japan and a Nigerian resident of Switzerland) produced more than political friction. It also created a deep mutual respect in the face of different styles of action and distinct ways of living the homosexual experience in each of the regions of the world.

There was a great capacity for work and improvisation on the part of the organizing committee. So many of the members of GOHL and the women of Patlatonalli gave their best effort through the event's irregularities.

Nevertheless, the proposals set forth by the alternate workshops enriched the conference greatly. During the week, three types of workshops were set up: those for discussion in which one looked to bring some proposals to be voted in the plenary session; those experiential workshops where participants suggested an exchange of experience but without bringing the discussion to resolution; and educational workshops in which the principal purpose was to transmit information about specific themes, for example, protected sex between women, fundraising, etc.

There was great will on the part of some groups from what is called the "First World" to contact and collaborate with groups from developing countries. For example, Queer Nation of Los Angeles asked that concrete projects be presented in order to help these groups with work and funds.

In the same way, Jens Rydstrom of Switzerland urged the Northern groups to sign on to the Twin Project in which a group from an "imperialist" country would assume the expenses of delegates from an oppressed country to attend the next ILGA Conference. In this vein, Alain Baud of Gays for Liberty (GPL) promised to do exactly that for the next ILGA conference to be held in Paris in 1992.

Among other important questions the Mexican Groups discussed was a gay tourist boycott against the State of Jalisco for its homophobia and to demand the resignation of the governor. Another workshop tackled the odd relations between the lesbian/gay movement and the Left. Also, there were regional workshops for Europe, Asia and the Americas. One workshop carried out an evaluation/history of the gay movement in Mexico. Also, one workshop was on the theme of pedophilia, the love between children and adults.

The situation became icy when the proposals from the workshop on child prostitution were rejected by the majority of the members of the plenary session who had not attended the workshop. If they had attended, they

Continued on page 8



LAURA PIERCE

ILGA

Continued from page 7

would have heard the testimony of two young male prostitutes from Mexico City who described their exploitation by and/or their outrages at the police who extort them and their clients, who many times drug them. Also, they spoke of massive violations when, by misfortune, they are sent to prisons or reformatories.

The need for these boys to drug themselves in order to be able to accept some client was also discussed, as well as how among them the older ones protect the younger and form themselves into spontaneous groups for mutual aid. It was mentioned that transvestism was an option that some of them chose in order to professionalize themselves and to work in a show or disco.

The proposals of this workshop were intended to defend the right of these young people to be free to use their bodies and not be harassed by the society or the police. Nevertheless, they were rejected with the argument that, "As homosexuals we are accused of precisely this: going around perverting children. So we cannot give reason to those who accuse us by approving these proposals." Thus, for the sake of greater respectability for the gay movement, the rights of these young people are sacrificed.

Another moment that surely swayed the conscience came when members of ACT UP interrupted the plenary session with whistles and by lying down on the floor imitating corpses. They demanded that we try to effect a major social mobilization in response to the AIDS crisis, obtain research funds and funds for the treatment of those who are sick. They also demanded a major promise from ILGA—in particular—to fight this epidemic. A great majority applauded the members of ACT UP.

One of the workshops not anticipated in the original program was directed by members of Queer Nation/Los Angeles. It was about the problem of differences and how the gay movement needs to open up space for other social groups that have not attained the same social recognition as homosexuals. They called attention to those who are still more oppressed and who many times do not even have a group consciousness, as is the case for bisexuals who are equally rejected by the straight world and those who constitute a minority-within-a-minority, like transvestites, transsexuals and pedophiles.

In the workshop about cultural definitions of homosexuality, there was a sample of how one can lose a good opportunity for theoretical exchange of a high level and become exhausted talking about the differences between effeminate gay men and masculine gay men and other small distinctions.

There were various exclusive workshops for lesbians and the problem of their social invisibility.

Every night there were fiestas and cocktail parties that were very well attended by gay men and lesbians who were exhausted from many days of committed work. They found a good occasion to relax and dance—very often a hot *cumbia* (a Colombian dance) danced to Madonna or Sade. The mixing was always cordial and friendly and on many occasions fell into torrid romances brought to a happy fulfillment on the balconies of the Hotel Torres Gemelas under the enchantment of the stars, the sea breeze, and the sound of the waves breaking over rocks. And, as always, it was the women with the

women and the men with the men.

The people of Acapulco in general showed many signs of sympathetic interest and human warmth expressed through spontaneous conversations with the conferees in the streets, restaurants, etc. The Acapulcan society definitely is not one that wants to reveal reactionary tendencies like those in Guadalajara.

Undoubtedly the culminating moment of the conference was the symbolic march from the Hotel Torres Gemelas to the Diana and back. Unfortunately, this was the only instance of division among the organizers. Since the state government did not offer to guarantee the safety of the marchers, the organizing committee decided to cancel the march. However, it was already listed in the program and it is the tradition of ILGA to end each conference by taking the streets. Yet, there was no spirit for more cancellations, so more than 100 of us decided to march to the cry of, "No is no, yes is yes...already we are coming out." Immediately, patrols appeared and with unexpected kindness, they asked us to leave a free lane for traffic.

This march was the first in the history of the Mexican homosexual movement conceived as a demonstration of thanks and not of protest. The people left the boutiques, many of them applauded us and made approving thumbs up gestures. The diners in restaurants rushed to the balconies and doorways and welcomed us with raised arms. To our great joy, a tropical storm was unleashed on our heads at our arrival at the Diana. "This Diana is a lesbian," cried the excited women.

We chanted slogans of traditional militancy, as valid today as ever, such as, "There is no political freedom without sexual freedom." But there was also a new chant, "Lesbians and faggots give thanks to Acapulco. Lesbians and faggots give thanks to Acapulco!" The bells of the seafood establishments of Condesa Beach rang in answer.

Finally, we returned to the lobby of the Hotel Torres Gemelas with our placards soggy from the torrential rain that was just enough to refresh our bodies and thankful hearts. As in other marches and with the greatness of the gay movement, we went on record proclaiming that freedom is not to be begged for but to be taken.

In the night there was a farewell fiesta in the nightspot La Guera, "the mother of all establishments" as it calls itself. Here, happy for the drinks that were cordially offered us, we enjoyed 1,001 embraces.

We met in Acapulco in '91; we look forward to Paris in '92. There we will meet anew and continue our work for the freedom of our bodies, our minds, our hearts and our souls. The 12th ILGA conference let us recognize ourselves in our differences. But the conference also showed us that all is not rosy in the gay movement.

We are proud that the meeting was finally held on Mexican land, but why accept the cancellation in Guadalajara?

Does our country have zones of tolerance and zones of intolerance with civil rights varying from state to state?

Why are young people in an absolute minority of the gay and lesbian liberation movement? Why are we failing to attract new generations of lesbian and gay people?

Why, in Mexico, have we forgotten our traditional sources of fundraising like fiestas, dances and raffles?

Continued on page 11



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ILGA

Continued from page 8

Why has the urgency to respond to the AIDS crisis made us leave aside the struggle for our place in society? Each day they close more gay bars and each day the police persecution in the street becomes more intense. Why do we permit this?

Why do we repeat the discrimination of the straight world? There is a gulf between transvestites, pedophiles, macho gays, butch lesbians, femme lesbians. Why is there so much prejudice in the movement?

Why during the conference did we not tackle the great depth of the question of AIDS in our country? The lack of intense information campaigns by the state—scientific not moralistic—is a sign of criminal negligence. All Mexican people have a right to information about AIDS.

We spoke of underwriting the costs of conference attendance for Latino and other delegates of the Paris conference in 1992. Will there be simultaneous translation into Spanish?

How do we finance the Latin American Network?

This is a necessarily partial and superficial chronicle of the thoughts, questions and tasks—accomplished and unfinished—of the conference. There are many others. □

Manuela Zozaya hopes that this report serves to give an idea of the events in Acapulco, '91, and that other men and women who participated in the conference and the formation of the Latin American Network would send texts that complement or contradict it in order to begin a dialog with this writer of gay Mexico."

Fortune

Continued from page 7

ethnic Europeans have," that all those trades associated with white immigrants in the cultural imagination of people in the U.S. today — the tailors, housepainters, bricklayers, longshoreworkers — were jobs largely performed by Black people before the turn of the century. But racist employers preferred to hire whites, even if they were despised Jewish, Irish or Italian people, over Black people to perform these trades — trades that provided upward mobility for white ethnics.

Ezorsky addresses critics of affirmative action who suggest that such programs violate the American principle of meritocracy by pointing out that employers' rights "to arbitrary discharge without reasonable cause [the standard rule in the U.S.] is hardly compatible with a merit system." As for critics who suggest that affirmative action somehow undermines the self-respect of Black people, Ezorsky states, "Traditional preference extended to personal connections has occasioned no such visible injury to self-respect. Career counselors who advise job seekers to develop influential contacts exhibit no fear that their clients will think less well of themselves; indeed, job candidates who secure powerful connections count themselves fortunate."

Let's not forget that gay and lesbian people of color deserve the benefit of affirmative action to make the corporate playing field a little more even. Affirmative action programs have done a wealth of good; indeed, the only time some white people mingle with people of color is at work.

Whether "gay people" need affirmative action — and I assume Wofford was talking about the emblematic gay person: a white male — is a separate issue, touching upon the constructions of sex and gender, and rights and needs — too much to discuss here (although I hope to in the future). Some of the legal literature on gay rights suggests that gay men suffer more discrimination at work than do lesbians, but whether this is because unmarried men arouse more suspicion than do unmarried women, or because men have more to lose than women because of their elevated economic status, I don't know.

The theory has not been demonstrably proven other than in the context of the enormous workplace discrimination gay men face with respect to AIDS (also a topic for another essay). However, it is clear that some gay men and lesbians simply cannot "pass" and are discriminated against far more than those who can; therefore, it is not at all outrageous to suggest that perhaps these individuals do need and deserve affirmative action.

An additional underlying message of the *Fortune* article is that gay people will be tolerated as producer-workers if they continue to be good consumers. Jack Sansolo, president of the giant Hill Holliday ad agency, posed for the cover in a closet (complete with hanger) and he doesn't look very happy. His message, however, is a simple — and happy — one: "Common sense tells you

it's [the gay market] sensational." Adds Celeveland, Ohio investment advisor Eric Nilson, "Probably 40% of my revenue is gay related. It's a wonderful market niche."

To *Fortune*, gay people are good for business because:

(1) a large number of people (2) who, because few have children, have more disposable income than others earning the same amount and (3) who are on the edge of society and therefore more likely to try new things. A 1988 Simmons study of subscribers to eight gay magazines showed that their household income averaged \$55,000 (\$23,000 more than the national average), and they were three times more likely than the average American to hold professional or managerial jobs.

That's a demographic description that fit a lot of people before the current recession. Are gay people the panacea for the country's ills? Perhaps when George Bush told everyone to go buy a house and a car as a way of seeing the country out of the recession, he should have said, "especially those of you who are gay."

Lost on the *Fortune* interviewees is that it's counter-productive to gay liberation for some gay people to gloat about their "double income, no kids" status while so many people are hurting from the recession. It's also counter-productive for gay people to either echo Republican attacks on affirmative action or remain silent in the face of such attacks, as have the Democrats. Both undermine the community's credibility on gay rights in corporate America—or in any sphere of life in this country—by ignoring the bulk of the gay community and by ignoring the people who, while not gay, are also engaged in a similar quest for fair treatment. □



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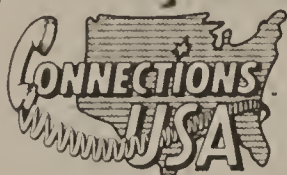
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TRY GCN'S GUARANTEED ROOMMATE AD

All roommate and housemate ads that are prepaid for two weeks we will run until you find a roommate.

Ads are *not* automatically renewed. You must call in every additional week you want the ad to run. Phone calls for renewals will be accepted on Fridays until 3 pm. 426-4469.

ROOMMATE WANTED

3 LF seek fourth for spacious JP house close to Centre Street and T. Front porch, off-street parking, washer, large barn. \$300+ util. Call 522-8235

VIOLATE OUR SPACE

A couple dykes sitting around looking for a third. We are vegetarians, easygoing and even though we are lesbians, we have cats. Our J.P. apt is sunny, spacious, close to T and bike path. Political, independent and gabby kinda girl sought. Room up for grabs is big and beautiful! Rent is an astoundingly low \$216+. Call 524-2952.

JAMAICA PLAIN

Two dykes looking for two more to share creative, musical, artistic home. Large kitchen, living room, yeard...spacious. Near 39 Bus, Pond, T. \$235/\$265+. Available immediately. Pets negotiable. Call 524-7767. (23)

EAST ARLINGTON—WALK TO T

2 lesbians plus cat seek lesbian 25+ to share our home. Good communication, sense of humor, open to racial diversity. No smoke, drugs, minimum alcohol. Beautiful, spacious apartment \$330+, 643-2426.

L or BiF wanted to share gorgeous sunny apt. in JP near Pond. Pets OK, cigs/drugs/alcohol not. \$425 includes study with private entrance. \$375 w/o study. 522-0049 (24)

LOVELY CONVENIENT SPLIT RANCH

3LF and 2 cats (no more please) seek fourth. Suburb, 5 min. to Tufts, 10 to Davis Square & Cambridge, near Rt. 93. Lovely 2 1/2 bath home, huge yard, gardens. Paton, all amenities, fireplace, storage, parking, separte phone line. Non smoker, 30+ desired. \$300+ , security. Available immediately, 731-2326 (23)

SOBER ROOMMATE WANTED 12/1

GM 28 and friendly housecat seek L or GM to share spacious apt. on Cambridge/Belmont line. Near bus. 7 min. ride to Harvard Sq. No alcohol/drugs/ "trick traffic." I am smoker (cigs. OK). 12-steppers esp. welcome. Call Michael 484-1389 leave msg. \$325 plus 1/2 utils. (17)

ALLSTON

4 Queer Ls seeking 2 more to share sober, semi-coop, no hassle household. Near T and bus. 230 and 254/mnth + util. 254-0448 (16)

FUN, FRIENDLY APT IN J.P.

1 LF, 1 BiF seek 1 LF for progressive, semi-coop, veggie apt \$250+ 4 blks from T, 3 blks from Centre St. Lots of commonspace, yard, driveway, sm. porch. We are non-smoke, sober, fun. 522-9351 (10)

2ND & 3RD FLOOR IN E. ARLINGTON

2LFs seek 3rd for spacious, sunny 3BDR. Yard, porches, laundry, off-street parking, own phone line. No smk/pets \$400 + util. Call 648-0970 or 648-1724. (18)

HARVARD SQUARE AREA

LF seeks 25+ LF, BI or SF to share 2 bedroom apt. 5 min from harvard square. W/D and fireplace. No smoking. \$337.50 utilities included. Call 864-6609. (20)

GREAT HOME

2 LFs and dog seek L to share friendly, comfortable house with yard in Somerville. 5 min. walk to Davis Sq and T. No smoke, drugs, min. alcohol. \$323 +, 776-6612 (18)

FEMINIST VEG. COOP! CAMBRIDGE/SOMERVILLE LINE!

4 women and 2 cats seek 1F for large sunny coop, 2 fls, garden, fun! No smoke/drugs. \$235+ util. avail. 1/1 666-9889 (23)

PONDSIDE J.P.

3 LFs seek 4th for big beautiful apt. Mature, friendly, independent house; porches, w/d, parking. No smokers, no pets. \$365+. Avail. now or Jan. 1. 522-9760. (23)

J.P. PONDSIDE

LF seeks 3 LFs 30+ to create new energy in sunny, spacious home. W/D, 2 bathrooms, 2 rooms of your won, safe neighborhood. Drug, alcohol, smoke free space. \$350+ Avail. immediately. Leave message 522-4720

4 dippy, sullen, confused single WFs in late 20s seek housemate. We support global redistribution of wealth because it would traumatize those with more money than us. Small room, \$260+, large house. Two adorable cats who hate each other. Aliens visit often. Seeking secure, bright, sane nurturing person to balance off household. 629-5375, Davis. Avail 1/1.

QUEER CAMBRIDGEPORT COOP

We're looking for wimmin, women or girlz for mixed dyke/fag home. Our fabulously beautiful longstanding co-op is conveniently located in a safe, friendly neighborhood. Five minutes from red line. 864-1466

MELVILLE PARK

GM, seek 1 more. LR, Dr sunrm, porch, mega yard, BIG bedrm. Near T. \$325+. 825-2722 (14)

PONDSIDE JP

3 LFs seek 4th for independent household. Large, beautiful apt. with 2 rooms of your own plus common space. 2 bathrooms, wash/dryer. Drug, alcohol, smoke free. No more cats. Avail. Jan 1st (or before) \$350+ 524-8040 or 522-4720 (19)

WATERTOWN SQUARE

LF acupuncture student seeks same to share cozy apartment on Charles River two blocks from Watertown Square. \$337+ 924-1317 (20)

APARTMENTS

Trees, view, breezes, sunlight, hardwood, offstreet parking. Quiet neighborhood near T. One bedroom apartment \$485 including all utilities. Drugfree women and gay house. 436-2583. (23)

CHARMING 2 BEDROOM

Boston, Savin Hill, Hardwood Floors, Euro-Bath, lots of storage, yard, nice area, owner occupied, steps to JFK T, UMass, X-way, \$650+ util. 288-4213. (23)

SOMERVILLE

West Arlington line. 2 bed. W.W. EIK, driveway, near Tufts, bus and redline. \$625/mo. Call 628-3028. (23)

REVERE APT. NEAR BEACH & T

Sunny 1 bedrm, quiet bldg, resident supt. From \$445 including ht/hw. Laundry and weights in bldg. No pets please. 286-7730 (25)

ELEGANT AND SPACIOUS

1st floor grand home. 5 rooms safe, quiet. 3 fireplaces, dishwasher, W/D, hardwood floors, porches, yard, near Ashmont T. No pets. \$850 inc. heat and utilities. 825-1912, 482-2082 (22)

PUBLICATIONS

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY

That's what you get inside every issue of *IN THESE TIMES*. We've built our reputation on addressing the issues the mainstream media ignores, and that's why our unique point of view has been trusted by thousands of readers for fifteen years. Experience the very best in alternative American journalism by ordering a sample copy today. Write: *IN THESE TIMES*, 2040 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60647 or subscribe toll free from anywhere in the U.S.: (800) 435-0715. GIVE US A TRY. WE'LL GIVE YOU THE VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

WOMEN'S REVIEW OF BOOKS

monthly review of current feminist writing. Since 1983. Our readers span the U.S., Canada, and abroad. Subscriptions: \$15/U.S., \$18/Canada, \$25/institutions. Free sample on request. THE WOMEN'S REVIEW, Wellesley Women's Research Center, Wellesley, MA 02181. (ex)

LESBIAN CONTRADICTION

A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. Quarterly of commentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and for women who agree to disagree—who are still political, but not necessarily correct. Sample \$1.50 sub. \$6 more if less if. LesCon, 584 Castro, No. 236G, SF, CA 94114. (18.35)

GAYELLOW PAGES

Accommodations, AIDS/HIV resources, bars, bookstores, various businesses, health care, legal services, organizations, publications, religious groups, switchboards, therapists, travel agents, & much more, for gay women and men.

All prices below INCLUDE FIRST CLASS POSTAGE to USA, Canada & Mexico, in sealed, discreet envelopes. Mailing lists are strictly confidential.

Orders from outside USA (including Canada & Mexico): payment must be in US Funds payable on a US bank, or by Post Office or American Express money order. (We suggest you try a local bookstore first, to avoid possible Customs problems!)

US/CANADA: Canada and USA for women & men. City by city information for all US States, Canadian Provinces, and the US Virgin Islands, plus nationwide resources including headquarters of national organizations and caucuses, publications, mail order companies, etc. \$12.00; outside N. America \$17 (airmail) NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY: NY & NJ, separate Women's Section, Manhattan bar notes by Jerry Fitzpatrick \$5.00; outside N. America \$8 (airmail) SOUTHERN: Southern Midwest 64 pages AL, AZ, AR, FL, GA, KS, KY, LA, MS, MO, NM, NC, OK, PR, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, WI, WV, VA. \$5.00; outside N. America \$8 (airmail) NORTHEAST: CT, DE, DC, ME, MA, NH, OH, PA, RI, VT, WV \$5.00; outside N. America \$8 (airmail)

RENAISSANCE HOUSE, BOX 292-GCN VILLAGE STATION, NEW YORK, NY 10014-0292 (212) 674-0120

THE AMERICAN GAY & LESBIAN ATHEIST

for a free sample copy write:

AGLA, PO Box 66711,
Houston, TX 77266-6711

DIAL-A-GAY ATHEIST (713) 880-4242

NEW LESBIAN MAGAZINE!

Deneuve—written by lesbians, about lesbians and for lesbians. 1 yr subscription (6 issues) \$20.96. Send check/money order to: FRS Enterprises, 2336 Market Street #15, SF, CA 94114. Discreet mailing. (23)

BROOMSTICK

A quarterly national feminist political journal by, for and about women over forty, 3543 18th st. #3, San Francisco, CA 94110. Yearly subscriptions: U.S. \$15, Canada \$20 (U.S. funds), Overseas and Institutions \$25. Sample copy \$5. Free to incarcerated women over forty. A magazine of midlife and long-living women's personal experiences and positive images of ourselves and our struggles; a network of over-forty women who are

PRISONERS SEEKING FRIENDS

26 y.o. Bi male would love to correspond with femme looking and acting gay males. Lonely, caring guy, will answer all. Tony Atkins, #560931, Rt. 2, Box 20, Midway, TX 758852

Very outgoing GM, in need of friends. Anyone with time to spare I'd love to hear from you. Can't get mail from prisoners. Steven Pinet, #1144652, #1387, ACI, PO Box 1100, Avon Park, Fla. 3333825

Country boy, age 21, GM. Like reading, writing, cars, motorcycles, riding and furry animals. Would like some friends. Michael Goodin, #408982, Rt. 4., Box 1200, Rosharon, TX 77583-8820

People call me Miss Two Two. I am looking for someone really nice to write to. Clifford Hagan, #100660, EKCC Dorm 1-AL-12, PO Box 636, West Liberty, KY 41472

29 y.o. GM, very affectionate and romantic. Always been very proud of who I am and represent. Wesley G. Benoit, #37307, C1-412, PO Box 2, Lansing, KS 66043

Bi guy seeking friend for possible relationship and home plan. Randall Hicks, 1711 Sandy Cup Rd, High Point NC 27265

28 y.o. male, muscular, athletic, educated, seeking feminine male for master-slave relationship. James Reed Harris, 17678-086, PO Box 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048

I am semi-brown skinned and I seek someone who is articulate, honest, and who wants someone out of life. I'm currently going to college. Joseph E Miller, #551771, Rt. 1, PO Box 16, Lovelady, TX 75851

GM, 25, soon to be released. Lonely, in search of a friend and someone to put a little sunshine in my dull life. David Miller, #058689, MSI, 1150 SW Ilapattah Rd, Indiantown, FL 34956

Attention TVs and GMs, I'm dominant gay, french and english man looking for energetic honest open minded friends and possibly? Big Joe Chappue, SID#7246772, OSP, 2605 State St., Salem, OR 97310-0505

GM, 28 y.o., fit body, seeking sincere friends. Will answer all letters. Write Rodney Davis, #100016, Camp J Gar 2R11, LSP, Angola, LA 70712

Young Black male, in search of communication, to fill the void in my life. Darryl Watts, #C-28692, PO Box 7500-SHU-C5-E-220, Crescent City, CA 95532

Dear Santa: do you know how lonely I'm getting this season? I'd like a man for Christmas this year, who's adventurous, has a good mind, special to me. Maurice Bork, #24640, PO Box 1989, Ely, NY 89301

GM, 28, good looking, will be out soon, can and will work but have no where to go once released. Will send photo when I hear from you. Timothy Martin, #58611, Unit #23,

committed to opposing agism and sexism and to developing our understanding of our lives.

RYAN'S VISION QUARTERLY

Is a new publication for citizens & prisoners with AIDS.. We report on treatments, news, activism, statistics etc. in the prison system. \$20 annually to: Ryan's Vision, Suite 6F, 277 Prospect Ave, Hackensack, NJ, 07601. Free to Prisoners. (19)

VOLUNTEERS

CAN YOU SPARE SOME TIME?

The GCN Prisoner Project needs volunteers for fabulous adventures in xeroxing, metering, and other exciting opportunities. Call Rebecca at 426-4469 for details.

OUTWRITE '92 IN BOSTON

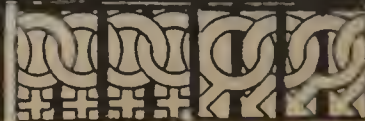
OutWrite '92 Planning Committee seeks eager beavers and diligent domo homos to serve on conference working groups. OutWrite '92, the national lesbian and gay writer's conference, will be here March 20-22, 1992 in Boston and will be co-sponsored by *OutLook* and *Gay Community News*. Call Sue at 426-4469.

WOMEN SEEKING FRIENDS

My interests include: swimming, dancing, beaches, sunsets, fishing, cooking and romance. I'm honest, sincere and loving. Dawn Ayres. 25688, Wilson B. 919, Frontera, CA. 91720

I'm a GBF, honest caring person. I have a joy for writing and meeting new people. Sorry, can't write prisoners. Faye Coleman. #906926, 401 N. Randolph St. Indianapolis, Ind. 46201-3099

My name is "Smooth" and I'm looking for friendship/companionship. I'm a very open minded person. Please write me soon. I'm very lonely. Mary Love, #852813, 401 N. Randolph St. Indianapolis, Ind. 46201-3099



I am locked up, and very lonely to hear from some of my brothers and sisters out there. Jon R. Perroton, #77489-0011, FCI Safford, RR 2, Box 9000, Safford, AZ, 85546-9729

Looking for a sincere person who isn't afraid of a real relationship, honestly is mandatory!! Ron Smith, PO Box 1989, #30949 Ely, Nev. 89301

Lonely GM seeking someone from the free world or other gay prisoners to correspond with for friendship and understanding. Open minded and sincere. John Sutcliffe, Rt. 1 Box 36, Jackson, NC 27845

Black political prisoner, interested in exercising the mind and weightlifting. Degree in "political science." Interested in meeting GM. Alonza J. Thorpe 3793, GSP, HCOI, L-2-12, Reidsville, GA 30499

Black, gay, very, very effeminate. Love to write, dance and love. Write Larry Patterway, #94556, Louisiana State Prison, C.S.U.2 Lower/left 109, Angola, LA 70712

Will write to anyone, prisoner mail welcome. Michael Sankpill, 180729, 4-B-18, Farmington Correctional Center, Farmington, MO 63640

Healthy attractive male. Truly built for sex. So you need to open minded and willing to try new types of sex. Thaddeus Combs, #113105, Louisiana State Penitentiary, Angola, LA 70712

Loneliness has been my companion for a long time now. Maybe one of my brothers and sisters will write. Leronto Williams, #034070/JIN7, FSP PO Box 747, Starke FL 32091

GM, reddish blonde hair, 20 y.o. Discharge in 92, need assistance. Gary Lynn Wilson, #132483-LA. State Penitentiary-Camp "C". Jaguar 3-Left-8, Angola, LA 70712. If not sincere then please don't write.

GM, interests are music, movies, outdoor fun and sharing time with the one I love. Zane L. White, #531130, Rt. 1, Box 150, Tern. Colony, TX 75861

GM 24 y.o. currently incarcerated in rehab-treatment center. Would like mature friend to be lover life mate. I have lots of love to share. PLEASE WRITE! Jayzack Joel Reimer, PO Box 189, Monroe, WA 98272

Calendar

14 & 15 December, Boston ♦ Saturday concert and Sunday brunch with singers/songwriters Tom Wilson Weinberg and Lisa Joy Bernstein. Attend the performance, the brunch or both. For more details see ad on backpage. Proceeds to benefit *Gay Community News*.

14 SATURDAY

Boston ♦ Tom Wilson Weinberg and Lisa Joy Bernstein Fundraiser to benefit *GCN*. Saturday performance, 8pm at Club Cabaret, 209 Columbus Ave. Sunday brunch at noon in Cambridge. \$12 performance, \$25 for performance and brunch. Tickets available at Glad Day and *GCN*. For more Info 426-4469.

Boston ♦ The Center's Holiday Craft Fair. 338 Newbury St. 12/14 10am-5pm & 12/15 noon-5pm. For more Info 247-2927.

Boston ♦ Girth and Mirth Christmas Social. The Center, 338 Newbury St. \$10 non-members, free for members. 8pm. For more Info 277-6522.

Cambridge ♦ "Earthlings". A satirical play focusing on Animal Rights. Kresge Theatre, MIT, 84 Mass. Ave. 8pm. \$8/ less if. For more Info 349-4380.

Boston ♦ Holiday Party. To benefit The Boston Living Center. Bobby's, 69 Canal St. 8pm-2am. 18+\$. \$3. For more Info 287-7983.

Boston ♦ American Jewish Congress to honor Barney Frank and the Bill of Rights. Dinner at Massachusetts State House. For more Info 330-9630.

Newton ♦ The Life and Times of Harvey Milk, film to be screened at Newton Free Library. Sponsored by Newton Human Rights Commission. 12/14 & 12/15. For more Info, Jana Sax 552-7170.

Boston ♦ Pride Timers' Christmas dinner and dance. The Claddagh restaurant, 113 Dartmouth St. 7-11pm. \$12.50. For more Info 262-8685.

Newton ♦ Holiday a Potluck Dinner for Lesbian Lawyers and Legal Workers. Potluck, new members welcome. 7pm. For more Info 83-3685.

Boston ♦ Bicycling Lesbians Around Boston (BLAB) Overnight slumber Party. For more Info 325-3213.

Sandwich Mtn, NH ♦ Chiltern Mtn Club's Early Winter Hike. 8.5 mile hike. For more Info 625-8537.

Newton ♦ Holiday Potluck for Lesbian School Teachers/Administrators. A group for socializing and support. 7pm. For more Info 244-5029.

Provincetown ♦ Holiday Social Tea. PWAs and their friends. St. Mary's of the Harbor, 519 Commercial St. 3:30-6:30pm.

Cambridge ♦ Back Alley Theatre presents "Times Square Angel". A production of Theatre-in-Limbo. Show runs through 1/25/92, Thurs.-Sun. \$15, \$10. For more Info 576-1253.

15 SUNDAY

Cambridge ♦ Handel's Messiah. Kresge Theatre, MIT, 84 Mass. Ave. 4pm. For more Info 349-4380.

New York, NY ♦ The Tree of Life Ceremony. A large tree to be adorned with medallions in memory of the men, women and children who have died of AIDS. The Center, 208 W. 13th St. 4pm. For more Info (212) 620-7310.

Boston ♦ Boston Gay Men's Chorus annual holiday concert. Also featuring guest flutist Fenwick Smith. New England Conservatory, Jordan Hall. \$20, \$15, \$9, \$6. For Info 247-BGMC.

Attleboro ♦ Triboro Triangles' Holiday Benefit Concert featuring The Freedom Trail Band. Agudas Achim Synagogue, Rte. 152. \$5 suggested donation. 3pm. For Info (508) 223-4636.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Mary Daly: Breaking Through Boredom. Please respect women's space. Crone's Harvest, 761 Centre St. 7:30pm. For Info 983-9530.

Boston ♦ "Working for All Women's Rights." Forum on women in S. Africa. Boston NOW office, 971 Commonwealth Ave. 6pm. For more Info 782-1056.

16 MONDAY

Boston ♦ A Brief Guide to Prenatal Tests. 7-9pm. \$5, \$8/couple. For more Info 964-6676.

Boston ♦ Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Architects Network. Noon lunch meeting, non-members welcome. \$7. For more Info 629-2351.

Boston ♦ Gay and Lesbian Parents. Families First Parent support workshops at The Children's Museum. \$10-\$12 per session. Childcare. For more Info 426-6500 x272.

17 TUESDAY

Boston ♦ NOW's Lesbian Rights Task Force. Work on legislation and initiatives to prevent discrimination. NOW office, 971 Commonwealth Ave. 7pm. For Info 782-1056.

Boston ♦ Gay Fathers of Greater Boston. Topic: 'Tis the Season. Meetings held 1st and 3rd Tues. of month. Lindemann Center, 25 Stanford St. \$2 donation. 8-10pm. For Info 742-7897.

18 WEDNESDAY

Cambridge ♦ "Love, List and Sin." Queer Nation Fundraiser. Wear your favorite fetish. Paradise, 180 Mass. Ave., 9pm-1am. \$3. For more Info 628-0288

Cambridge ♦ Cambridge Lavender Alliance. General meeting, all welcome. Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. 7-9pm. For more Info 876-3874.

Cambridge ♦ Greater Boston Business Council's Holiday Cruise. Hors d'oeuvres, free drinks first hour. \$40. For more Info 236-GBBC.

Boston ♦ The Center's Holiday Party. hors d'oeuvres, cash bar. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave. Wheelchair accessible. 7-10pm. \$10. For more Info 247-2927.

19 THURSDAY

Boston ♦ Discussion Group for HIV Negative and Bisexual Men. Sponsored by AAC and FCHC. Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., 4th fl. For more Info 267-0900 x287.

New York, NY ♦ Lesbian Movie Night: Peking Opera Blues. The Center, 208 W 13th St. 8pm. \$6 more if/less if. For more Info (212) 620-7310.

New York, NY ♦ Holiday Fundraising Party for *GCN*. Come enjoy refreshments and meet other *GCN* supporters like Jewelle Gomez, Martin Duberman, Catherine Saalfeld and Funny Gay Males. The Center's Network Room, 208 W 13th St. 7-9:30pm. \$10 in advance, \$20 at door. For more Info (212) 807-9584.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Open Mike with Sharon Sue Kleinman. Also featuring Louise Moore, Ellie Cutler, Holly Daschbach, Tina D'Ella and more. Crone's Harvest, 761 Centre St. 7:30pm. For more Info 983-9530.

Boston ♦ "Bridges," a multicultural ceremony of music and song. Hosted by AAC. Villa Victoria, 85 W. Newton St. 7pm. For more Info 437-6200 x248.

21 SATURDAY

Boston ♦ Women's Coffeehouse, special appearance by award-winning singer/songwriter Wes. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 8pm. \$10 suggested donation. For more Info 247-2927.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Doshie Powers, Jeannette Muzlmo Duo and Nurudafina Pill Abena in concert. Crone's Harvest, 761 Centre St. 8pm. For more Info 983-9530.

22 SUNDAY

Natick ♦ MetroWest Gala. Potluck. 6:30pm. For more Info and location (508) 653-2509

SATURDAYS

Boston ♦ BLOW (Boston's Leathermen On Wheels) New social club for gay motorcyclists now forming. For more Info and location 783-9296.

Boston ♦ Frontrunners. Meet at Metropolitan Health Club for 2 to 5-mi. run along Charles. Lockers and showers \$1.00. 10am. Also: Tues. 11:45pm. at MHC; Wed. 6:45 pm. at Hatch Shell; Sun. 3:00pm. at Jamaica Pond Boathouse. Info: Sara 524-4025.

Boston ♦ "Two-Steppin' for AIDS." Texas Two-stepping and line dancing for the HIV positive community and their friends. At the Boston Living Center, YWCA, 140 Clarendon St., 7th fl. Third Saturdays, 7:00-12:00pm. Donations go to direct services for people with AIDS. Info: 236-1012.

Cambridge ♦ Single Mothers' Support Group. Free drop-in group with child care, alternate Saturdays. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 11am-12:30 pm. 354-8807.

Boston ♦ Pink Flamigos. TV/TS of New England. 4 to 6 pm. 338 Newbury St., 2nd flr. 247-2927.

Boston TV ♦ PrideTime—Boston G/L TV, with Cynthia Pape. 7:30 p.m. Boston Neighborhood Network, channels A3 and A8. Also on Cambridge Cable Channel 19, 7 pm. Tuesdays, and on other systems; check listings.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Women's Coffeehouse. Musical entertainment, usually, 8 pm. Crone's Harvest, 761 Centre St. \$5 suggested donation. 983-9530.

Cambridge ♦ A multicultural story hour for children aged 3-8. Sponsored by FCHC and Lesbian Mothers Group. Thldr Sat. of every month. Info: 267-0900 ext 292.

SUNDAYS

Boston ♦ Boston Alliance of G/L Youth (BAGLY) Drop-In Center. St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin. (800) 42BAGLY.

Boston ♦ Work Issues Support Group. 2 to 4 pm G/L Comm. Ctr., 338 Newbury St.

Boston ♦ Boston Strikers Soccer Club. Weekly novice and club scrimmages. All levels. 3 pm. Info: Erik 423-0929 or Jeff 876-7612.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Sports. Magazine Field, Memorial Dr. Spons. by DOB. Softball 4 to 6 pm; volleyball 6 pm 'til dark. \$1. Info: Steph 625-9551.

Boston ♦ Dignity Mass. Lkurgy followed by a social hour. St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin St. 5:30 p.m. 536-6518.

Boston ♦ Western Orthodox Church Mass. Arlington St. Church, 351 Boylston St. 227-5794.

Provincetown ♦ Christian Healing Service. 5:30 pm. 96 Bradford St. (P-Town AIDS Support Grp.) Pot luck dinner to follow. (508) 487-3866.

Boston ♦ Metropolitan Community Church Worship/Fellowship. 131 Cambridge St. (near Gov't Ctr.). 7 pm. Info: Rev. Tanks 437-0420.

Boston ♦ Narcotics Anonymous. L/GM. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 8 pm. 247-2927.

Boston ♦ The Gay Dating Show, WUNR 1600AM. 10:30pm-2:30 am.

Boston ♦ Different Strokes Swim Team. Coached work-outs for swimmers of all abilities. 10:15. Info: 767-0449 or 282-3110.

MONDAYS

Boston ♦ New Support Group for Recovering Women with HIV/AIDS. Sponsored by Women, Inc. Call Magda or Christine for a screening interview 442-6166.



Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 12:25 p.m. 262-3456.

Boston ♦ Chiltern Downhill Skiing Lessons. Monday nights at Nashoba Valley ski area. Info: Jim 843-3966.

Boston ♦ Monday Night Dinners for PWA's and Friends: about 100 people meeting every Monday at AAC for dinner. No reservations required. 6 p.m. AAC, 131 Clarendon St. 437-6200.

Dorchester ♦ Alcoholics Anonymous. First Parish Church, Mtg. Hs. Hill. Beginners 6:30, hardhats 8 p.m.

Boston ♦ Queer Nation meets 1st and 3rd Mondays at new location: Local 26, 58 Berkeley, 3rd Floor. 7:00 pm.

Worcester ♦ AIDS Project Worcester. A support group for family, friends, concerned others dealing with HIV. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 pm. (508)755-3773.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Rap Group. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10 pm. 354-8807.

Cable TV ♦ "Between Takes." Often a g/l slant on events. Boston A3 Mondays 9:30 pm. Cambridge CCTV Thursdays 8:30 pm. Rhode Island Interconnect A Fridays 8:30 pm. Other areas: check listings.

TUESDAYS

Boston ♦ Gay Fathers of Greater Boston. Meetings held 1st and 3rd Tues. of month. Lindemann Center, 25 Stanford St. \$2 donation. 8-10pm. For Info 742-7897.

Boston ♦ Boston Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays. 2nd Tues. of month. Harriet Tubman House, 566 Columbus Ave. For more Info 424-6989.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Batacoda Belles rehearsal. Open to women of color. Multicultural Arts Center, Centre St. 7-9pm. For more Info 864-5067.

Providence, RI ♦ ACT UP/Rhode Island. Call for meeting place (401) 461-4191.

Gloucester ♦ Healing Circle / Positively Clean and Sober. Healing circle 6:30 to 8 p.m., open to anyone facing chronic or life-threatening illness. Pos. C&S 8 to 9 p.m., for people living with HIV and dealing with subst. abuse issues. N. Shore AIDS Project, 19 Pleasant St. (508) 283-0101.

Boston ♦ ACT UP/Boston. The Living Center, YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 7 p.m. 49-ACTUP.

Cambridge ♦ Bisexual Women's Rap. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7-8:30, 354-8807.

Cambridge ♦ Eating Awareness and Body Image Group. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7-9pm. 354-8807.

Medford Radio ♦ Dyke on the Mike with the Nolsy Nelly Show — queer radio. WMFO 91.5FM.10am-12pm. Tufts U. radio. For Info 381-3800.

Medford ♦ "We the People"—with feminist Shella Parks. WMFO 91.5FM. 7-9a.m. Tufts U. radio.

Worcester ♦ Support Group for HIV+ G/B Men and their Significant Others. Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. (508) 755-3773.

Boston ♦ L/G Freedom Trail Band Rehearsals. No audition necessary. Mass College of Art, Longwood and Brookline Ave. 7:15 p.m. 266-0628.

Amherst ♦ P-FLAG, Pioneer Valley Monthly meetings held 2nd Tues. of month. Grace Episcopal Church, Parish Hall. 6:30 pm. For info (413) 532-4883.

WEDNESDAYS

Boston ♦ Women in the Building Trades will be offering free Introductory workshops. 6:00-8:00pm from 10/30-12/4. At 555 Amory St. Call 524-3010 to pre-register or for info.

Cambridge ♦ Job search support group. Cambridge Women's Center. 6:30-8:30 pm. Info: 354-8807.

Boston ♦ Sales Networks Program for G/L Business Owners and Supporters of the Community. 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St., 2nd flr. Registration required: Marc Spencer 262-2400.

Hyde Park ♦ Women's Pick-Up Hockey. MDC Hyde Park Rink (near Dedham). 8 to 9 a.m. Info: Janice 326-1600 x350.

Boston ♦ Boston Alliance of G/L Youth (BAGLY). Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. New persons' meeting 6 pm.; women and men meet separately 6:45 to 7:30; general meeting 7:30 pm. (800) 42-BAGLY.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Al-Anon. Wheelchair accessible. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30 to 8 p.m. 354-8807.

Springfield ♦ Names Project Meeting. New chapter with weekly quilting meetings. All welcome. Frontier. 19 Pearl St. 7 to 10 p.m. (413)788-7459

Worcester ♦ Supporters of Worcester Area G/L Youth (SWAGLY). Social support grp. for youths 22 and under. 7 to 9 p.m. United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Road. 7 to 9 p.m. (508) 755-0005.

Boston ♦ "Say it Sister"—teminist, gay-positive radio. WMBR 88.1 FM. 7pm.

Boston ♦ Bisexual Adult Children of Alcoholics. Mass. General Hospital. 7:30 p.m. Info: Marge 259-1559.

Bridgewater ♦ S. Shore G/L Alliance. 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Bridgewater Ctr. Primarily a social group of age 25+, but all welcome. Info: Glen 293-5183 or Dave 294-0367.

Worcester ♦ Support Group for HIV+ who are in Substance Abuse Recovery. Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7:30 to 9 p.m. (508) 755-3773.

Amherst ♦ Queer Nation meets 6:00-7:00pm at Bangs Community Center, 70 Boltwood Walk. Info: P.O. Box 202, Hadley, MA 01035 or (413) 584-4213.

THURSDAYS

Boston ♦ The Boston Monthly HIV Medical Update. 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30pm. John Hancock Conference Center, 40 Trinity Place (near Copley green and Back Bay/South End Orange T stations). Info: 262-3456.

Somerville ♦ The Thursday Night Dinner Program offers meals to PWA's HIV+ and friends at the Methodist Church. One block from Davis Square Red Line Station. Info: 666-4130.

Boston ♦ Boston Area Rape Crisis Center drop-in group for women who have been raped. 492-RAPE.

Boston ♦ Names Project Quilting Bee — for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Sewing supplies and support provided. Boston Living Ctr., 140 Clarendon St. 7th flr. 7 to 9 p.m. Info 451-9003.

Portsmouth, NH ♦ Out and About. A lesbian social and support group. Info: Keryn (603) 749-5852.

Provincetown ♦ Positive PWA Coalition Weekly Rap Session. 7:30. 155 Bradford St. Peer led. (508) 487-3998.

Boston ♦ The Group. Discussion and social hour. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 734-2076.

Boston ♦ L/G Ice Hockey Practices and Intersquad Scrimmages. All levels. 9 p.m. Grrr Bos. rink. Info: John 350-6063, Al 522-1408.

Cambridge ♦ GAMIT Study Break. (GAMIT = Gays at MIT.) GAMIT lounge, 142 Memorial Dr.

Boston ♦ Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights general meeting. Thldr Thurs. of every month. 6:30-8 pm. The Center, Room 206, 338 Newbury St. For Info 266-2956.

Boston ♦ Lesbian and Gay Caucus of the National Writer's Union. The Center. 6-8pm. 338 Newbury St. For Info 442-4693, 344-8096.

FRIDAYS

Watertown ♦ GLOW: G/L of Watertown. 395-4664.

Boston ♦ *GCN* Friday Night Stuffing Party. Come stuff the paper, eat pizza, and make new friends. *GCN*, 62 Berkeley St. 5 p.m. 426-4469.

Provincetown ♦ Safe Sex Brigade and Anti-L/G/B Violence Campaign. Volunteers meet on steps of P-Town Post Office Friday and Sunday nights at 11:30 p.m. through Labor Day. Info: ACT UP (508) 487-2063.

Danbury, CT ♦ Danbury Area Gay Men's Support Group. 312 Main St. 7:30-9pm. For more info (203) 744-0104.

Boston ♦ Friday Night at the Movies. The Center. 7pm. \$2 suggested donation, 338 Newbury St. For Info 247-2927.

Calendar Guidelines

Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos encouraged! (*GCN's* FAX 617-426-2723) Please specify if event is or is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted.

Calendar listings *will not* under any circumstances be taken over the phone.

Please use our format for listings, including time, date, place, and a contact person.

All listings must be typed. Please note that listings are printed only as space allows; we regret that we cannot print every submission.

Phone numbers listed are in the 617 area code, and cities are in Massachusetts, unless otherwise noted.



New Year's Eve
Romance and Candlelight Downstairs...
Wild Dancing Upstairs! • Only \$7 Cover
Come Celebrate the New Year In Style
with the Indigo Staff.

LIP/SYNCH next Thursday with \$ 100 cash
prize to best performer.

INDIGO Food Drive continues... Please keep bringing
In your "Canned Goods" for the December Holidays.

Children of Lesbian & Gay Parents
X-mas Party • December 15th • 2pm-4pm

Desert Hearts • Sat. December 28th • 8pm

No Cover on Thursdays
No Cover 'til 10:30 on Fridays & Saturdays

INDIGO

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So, you're going to be in New York on the 19th?

Come to a Holiday Fundraising Party
for GCN. Enjoy refreshments and meet
other GCN supporters like Jewelle Gomez,
Martin Duberman, Catherine Saalfeld
and Funny Gay Males.

This gala event is happening at The Center's
Network Room, 208 W 13th St. 7-9:30pm.
\$10 in advance, \$20 at door.

For more info (212) 807-9584.

New songs from the composer of Ten Percent Revue

TOM WILSON WEINBERG

*musical director
and accompanist*

Lisa Joy Bernstein



DEC. 14

Saturday performance to benefit
Gay Community News at 8:00 PM
Club Cabaret, 209 Columbus, Boston

DEC. 15

Sunday Brunch with Tom and Lisa
in Cambridge at noon.

Performance
and Brunch

\$25

Performance

\$12

\$15 at the door

Tickets for available at Glad
Day Bookstore and GCN. For more
Information call (617) 426-4469